

WiFi: Region One Guest

PW: Webb1848



Early Childhood

STEAM Educator Academies

WS 110238 - Day 1

Coding and Computational Thinking



Objectives

- Answer the question “why should we teach computer science?”
- Gain an understanding of computational thinking
- Learn why we should introduce coding to prereaders
- Experience various strategies to teach fundamental Computer Science to young children

Agenda

Day 1

- What is Computer Science?
- What is computational thinking?
- Developing computational thinking in prereaders

Day 2

- Teaching Computer Science fundamentals to prereaders through play
- Using electronic technology
 - Code.org and Hour of Code
 - Ozobot EVO
 - Tynker Junior



Icebreaker

Draw the Picture



- Each of you will receive a picture
- You will have 10 minutes to write down instructions on how to reproduce the picture using only basic shapes (i.e. triangle, square, circle, etc.) [the programmer]
- Do not give away what the picture is
- You will be trading your instructions with someone else at your table who will try to reproduce your picture based on your written instructions [the computer]

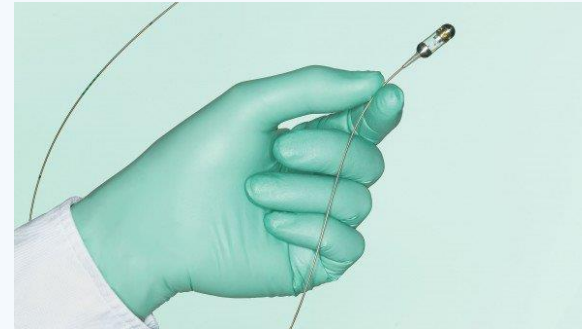
Discuss with a Shoulder Partner...

- How do you use technology on a daily basis? Give some examples from today!
- What do you think technology will look like 30 years from now?



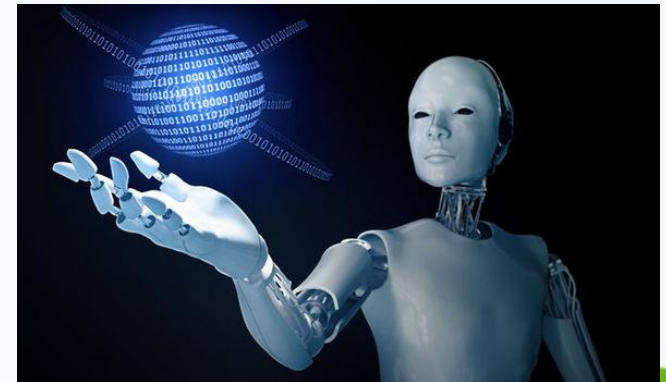
Self-driving trucks...

3D Printing...



Gut probes...

AI...



What is Computer Science?

- *Computer Science is the study of computers and computational systems. Computer scientists deal mostly with software and software systems including their theory, design, development, and application.*

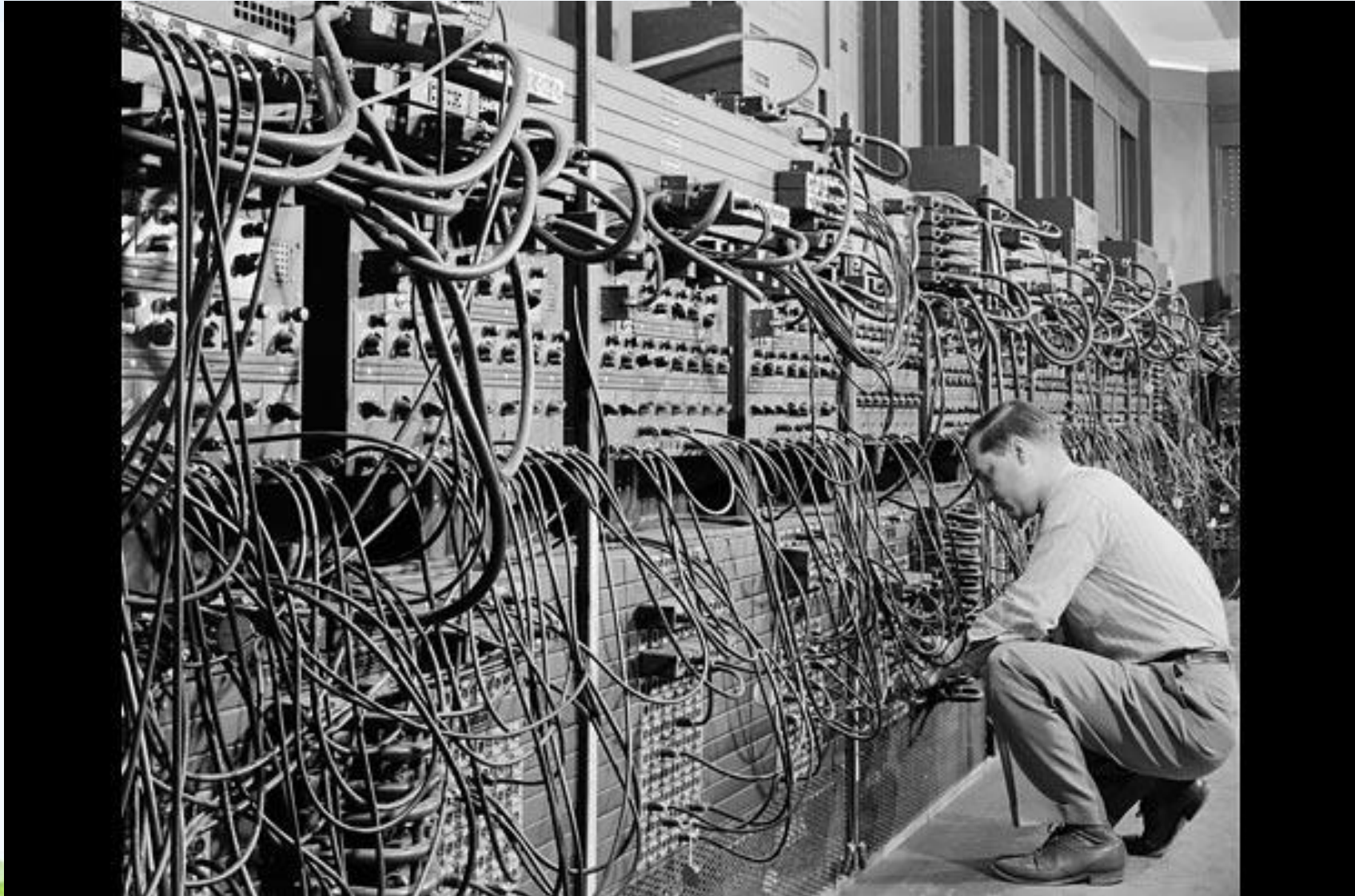
Principal areas of study within CS:

- *Artificial intelligence*
- *Computer systems and networks*
- *Security*
- *Database systems*
- *Human computer interaction*
- *Vision and graphics*
- *Numerical analysis*
- *Programming languages*
- *Software engineering*
- *Bioinformatics*
- *Theory of computing*



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Region One ESC

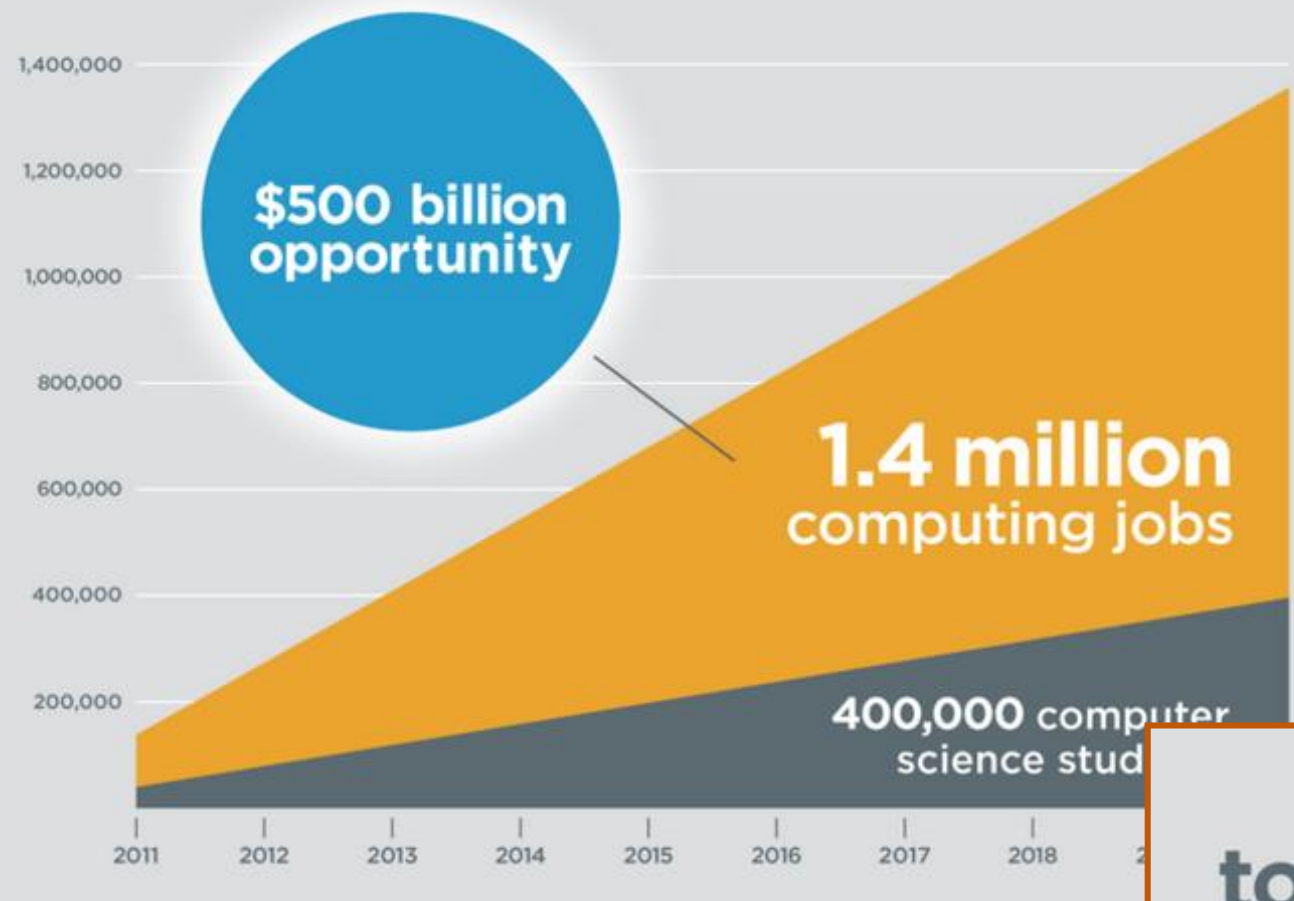
The Computer - 1946



The Computer - 2019



1,000,000 more jobs than students by 2020

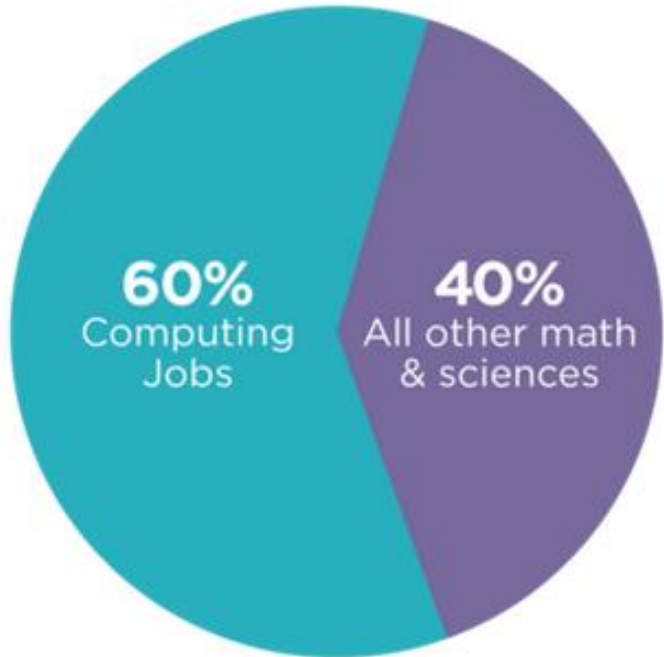


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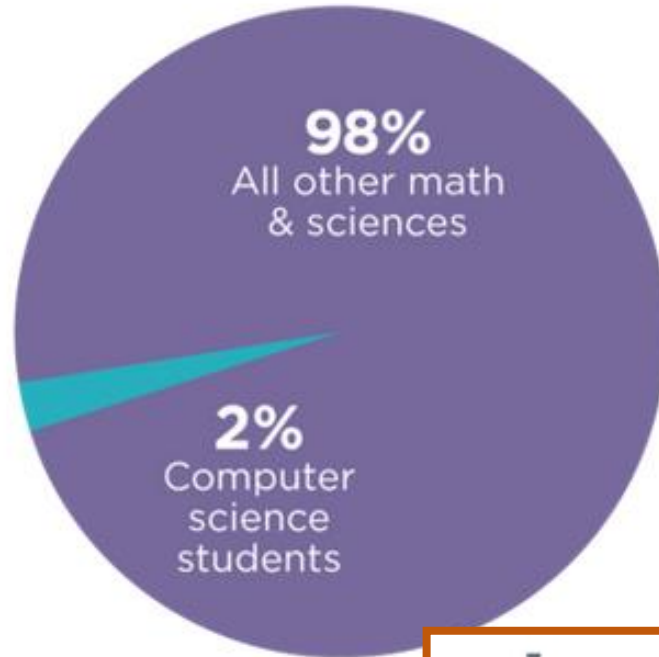
Computer science is a **top-paying college degree** and computer programming jobs are growing at **2X the national average.**

Sources: BLS, NSF, Bay Area Council Economic Institute

The job/student gap in computer science



Jobs

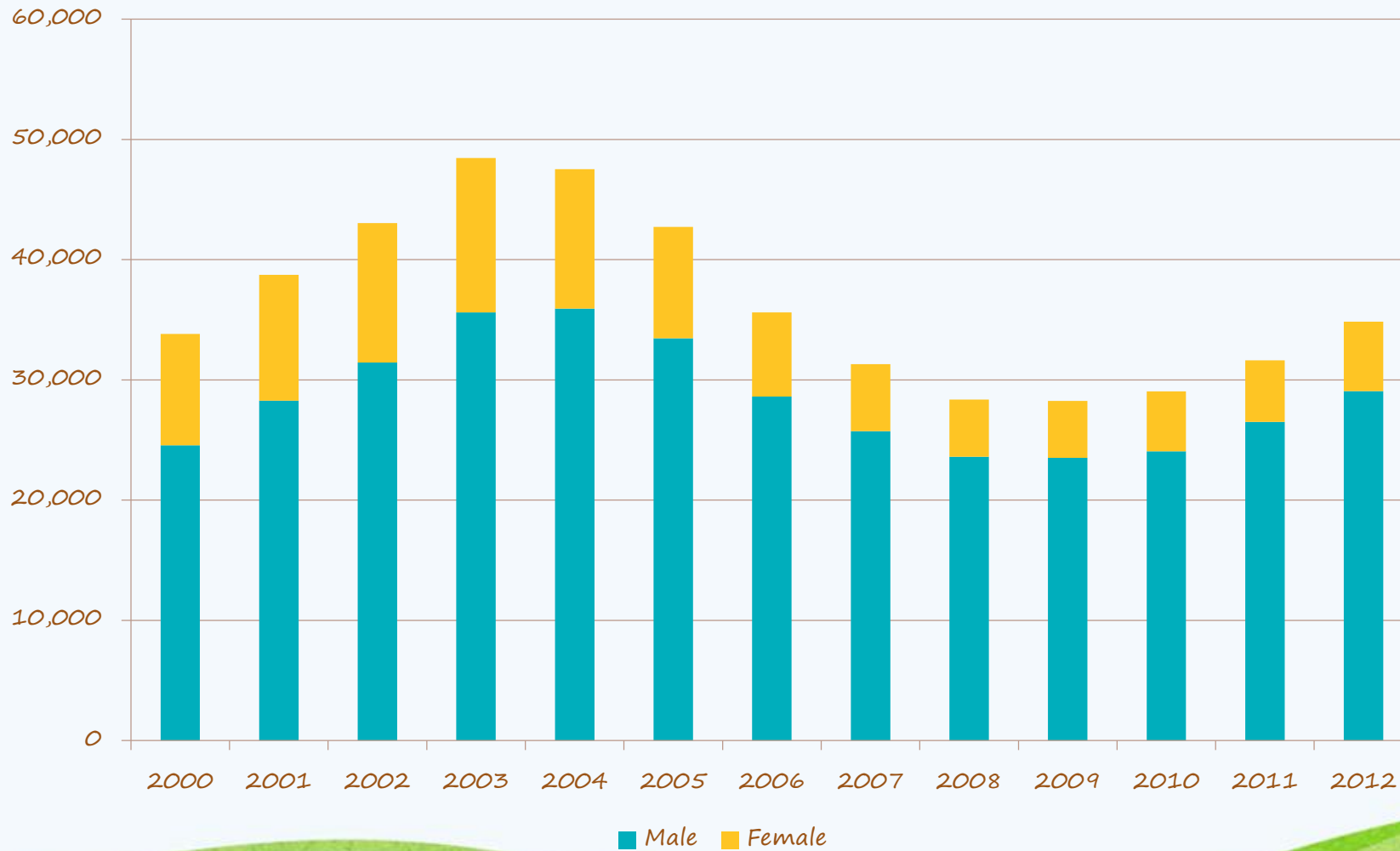


Students

Less than 2.4% of college students graduate with a degree in computer science. And the numbers have dropped since last decade.

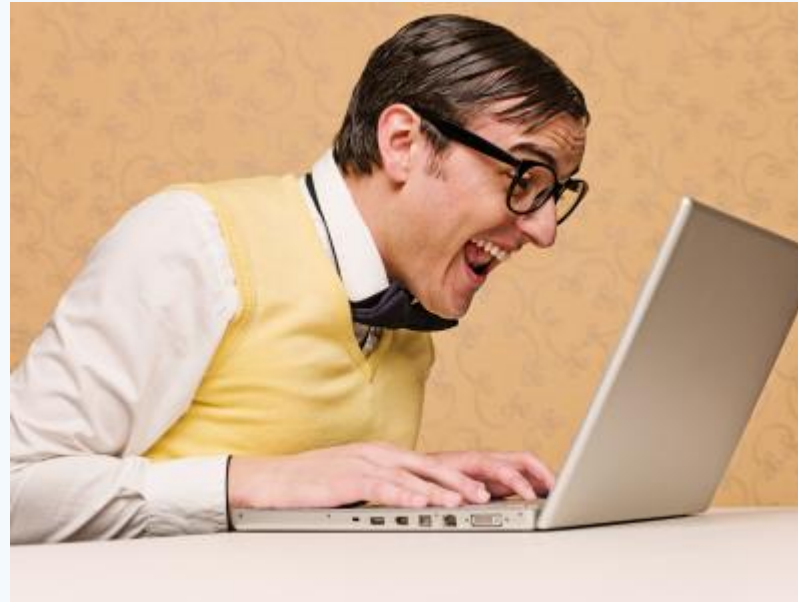
Sources: College Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Science Foundation

Fewer CS majors than 10 years ago (and a shrinking % are women)



Sources: National Science Foundation

Breaking Stereotypes





The Statistics

<https://csedweek.org/promote/tx>



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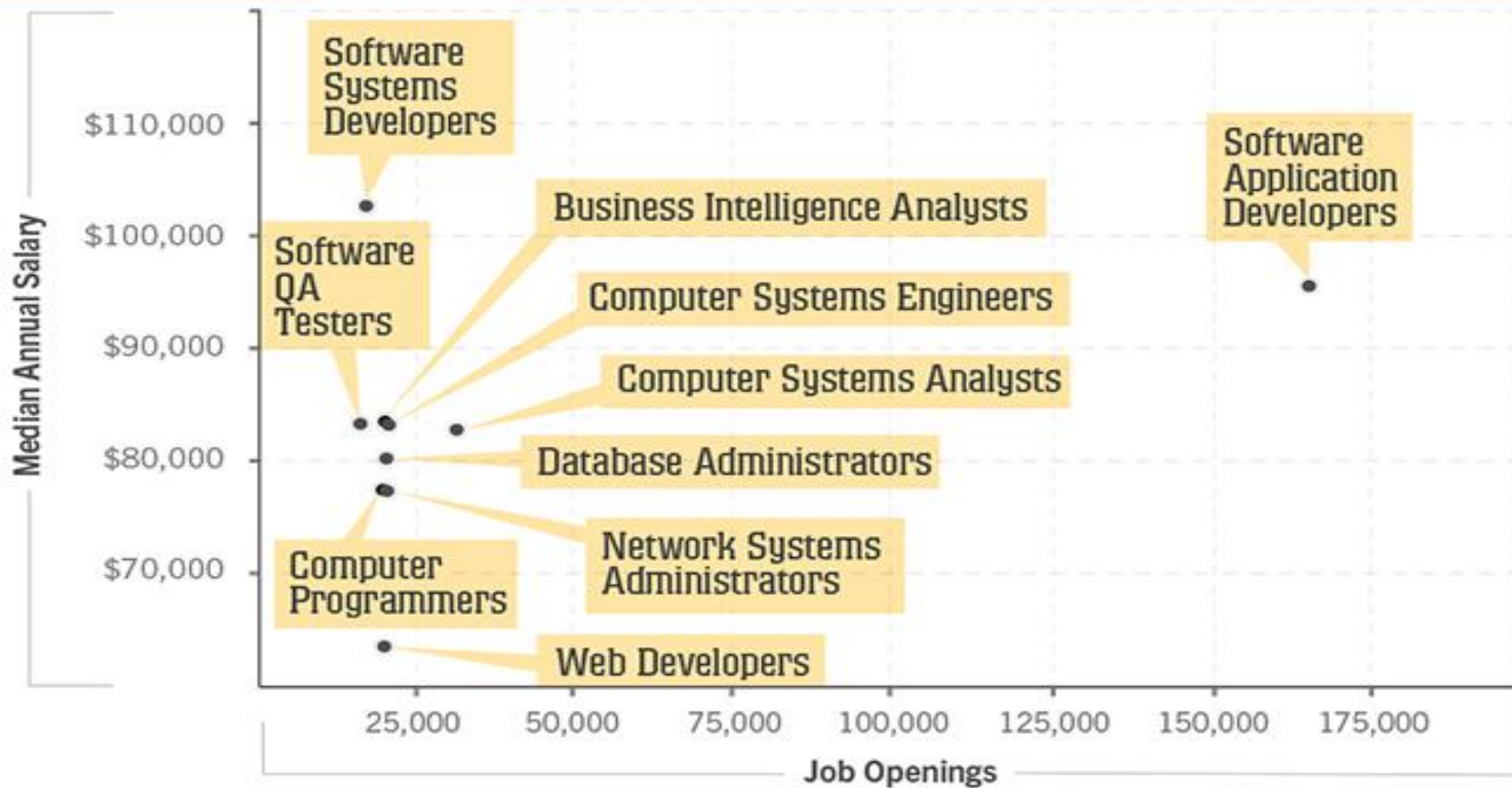
Technology affects every field...



What Can You Do With a Computer Science Degree?



STEM Center of South Texas
Region One ESC



What is coding?

- Coding, also known as programming, is “the process of developing and implementing various sets of instructions to enable a computer to do a certain task.”
(BusinessDictionary.com)

Evolution of Coding

```
01101010011010100010110110010010101100101010101001010101
01111000101011110001101110111000101010010101001101010100
01010100010010010110101000101001011100011001010100100110
00110101010111101011011110100100100010110101010100000101
00110101001101010001011011001001010110010101010100101010
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10111100010101111000110111011100010101001010100110101010
00101010001001001011010100010100101110001100101010010011
00011010101011110101101111010010010001011010101010000010
00110101001101010001011011001001010110010101010100101010
10111100010101111000110111011100010101001010100110101010
```

Binary

Evolution of Coding

```
ASSUME CS:CODE,DS:DATA
DATA SEGMENT
LIST DW 2579H,0A500H,0C009H,0159H,0B900H
COUNT EQU 05H
DATA ENDS
CODE SEGMENT
START:    XOR BX,BX
          XOR DX,DX
          MOV AX,DATA
          MOV DS,AX
          MOV CL,COUNT
          MOV SI,OFFSET LIST
AGAIN:    MOV AX,[SI]
          SHL AX,01
          JC NEG
          INC BX
          JMP NEXT
NEG:      INC DX
NEXT:     ADD SI,02
          DEC CL
          JNZ AGAIN
          MOV AH,4CH
          INT 21H
          CODE ENDS
          END START
```

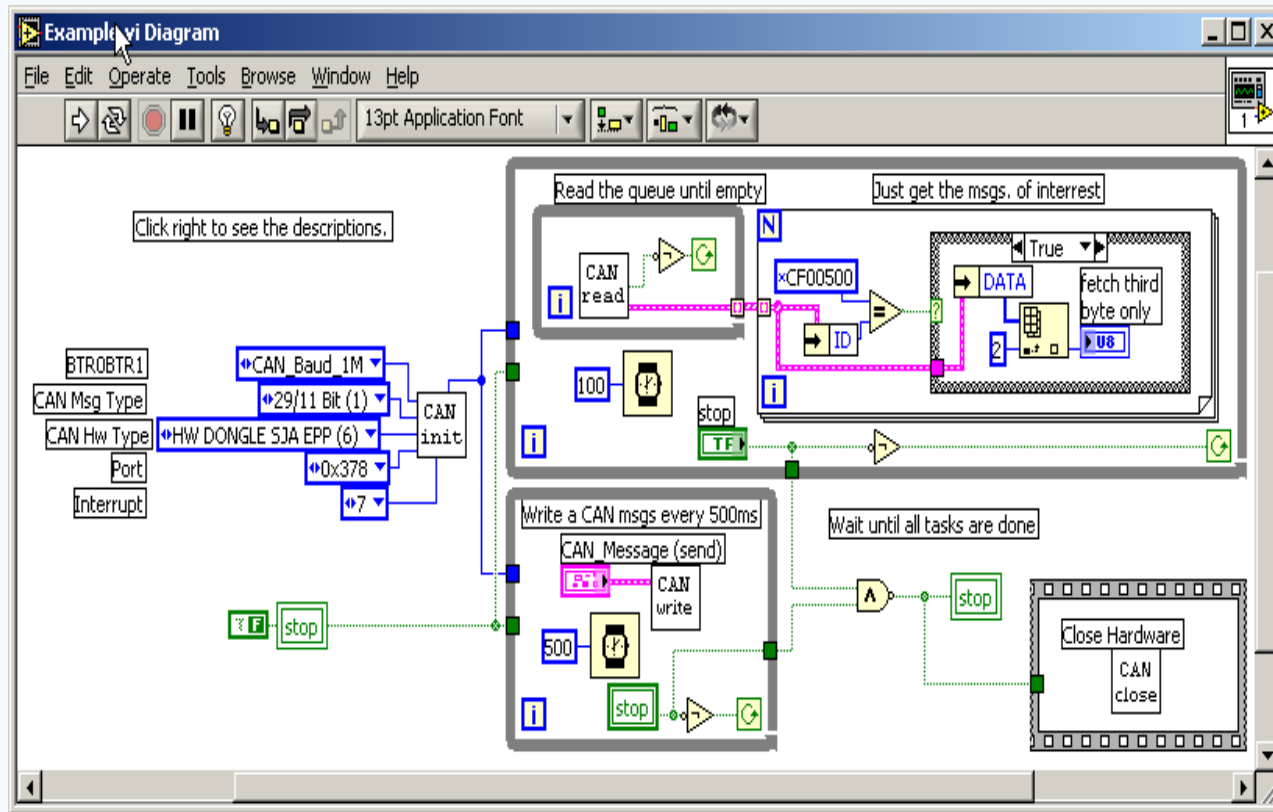
Assembly

Evolution of Coding

```
threads.c X
18 struct thread_app_data_struct thread_app_data[NUM_THREADS];
19
20 void *thread_work(void *threadarg);
21 float accumulate(unsigned int thread, float accum, unsigned int loops, float
22
23
24 /* Create some threads, give them some work to do, then wait for them to fini
25 int main (void)
26 {
27     pthread_t thread[NUM_THREADS];
28     pthread_attr_t attr;
29     int err;
30     unsigned int t;
31     //void *join_result;
32
33     printf("\n");
34     printf("Threads example\n");
35     printf("=====\n");
36     printf("\n");
37     printf("This example creates %d threads with pthread_create(),\n", NUM_TE
38     printf("gives them some work to do (accumulating a float result in a loop
39     printf("then waits for them to finish with pthread_join().\n");
40     printf("\n");
41
42     printf("Parent process ID getpid()=%d\n", getpid() );
43
44     /* Configure thread attribute as joinable */
45     pthread_attr_init(&attr);
46     pthread_attr_setdetachstate(&attr, PTHREAD_CREATE_JOINABLE);
47
```

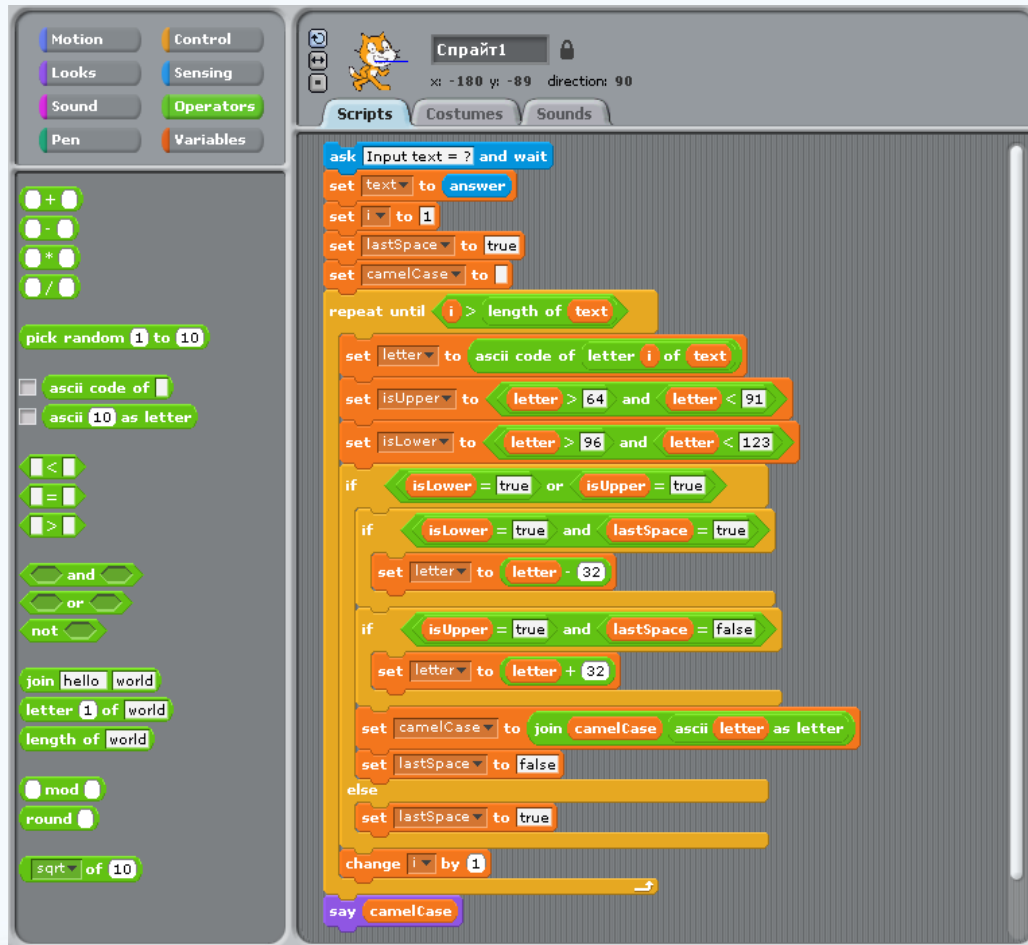
C++
Object Oriented
Programming

Evolution of Coding



LabView

Evolution of Coding



The image shows the Scratch code editor interface. On the left is the 'Scripts' category in the block palette, with various operators like '+', '-', '*', '/', 'pick random 1 to 10', 'ascii code of', 'join', 'length of', 'mod', 'round', and 'sqrt'. The main workspace shows a script for a sprite named 'Спрайт1' with the following code:

```
ask Input text = ? and wait
set text to answer
set i to 1
set lastSpace to true
set camelCase to

repeat until i > length of text
  set letter to ascii code of letter i of text
  set isUpper to letter > 64 and letter < 91
  set isLower to letter > 96 and letter < 123
  if isLower = true or isUpper = true
    if isLower = true and lastSpace = true
      set letter to letter - 32
    if isUpper = true and lastSpace = false
      set letter to letter + 32
  set camelCase to join camelCase ascii letter as letter
  set lastSpace to false
  else
    set lastSpace to true
  change i by 1
say camelCase
```

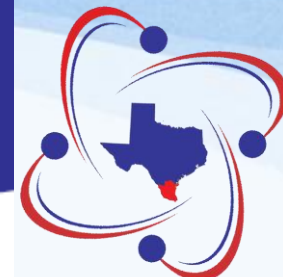
Scratch Blockly Programming

Why code? (Reason #1)

To graduate with a STEM endorsement following the Computer Science pathway.

- We are already living in a world dominated by software.
- The next generation's world will be even more online and digital.

CLASS OF
2018



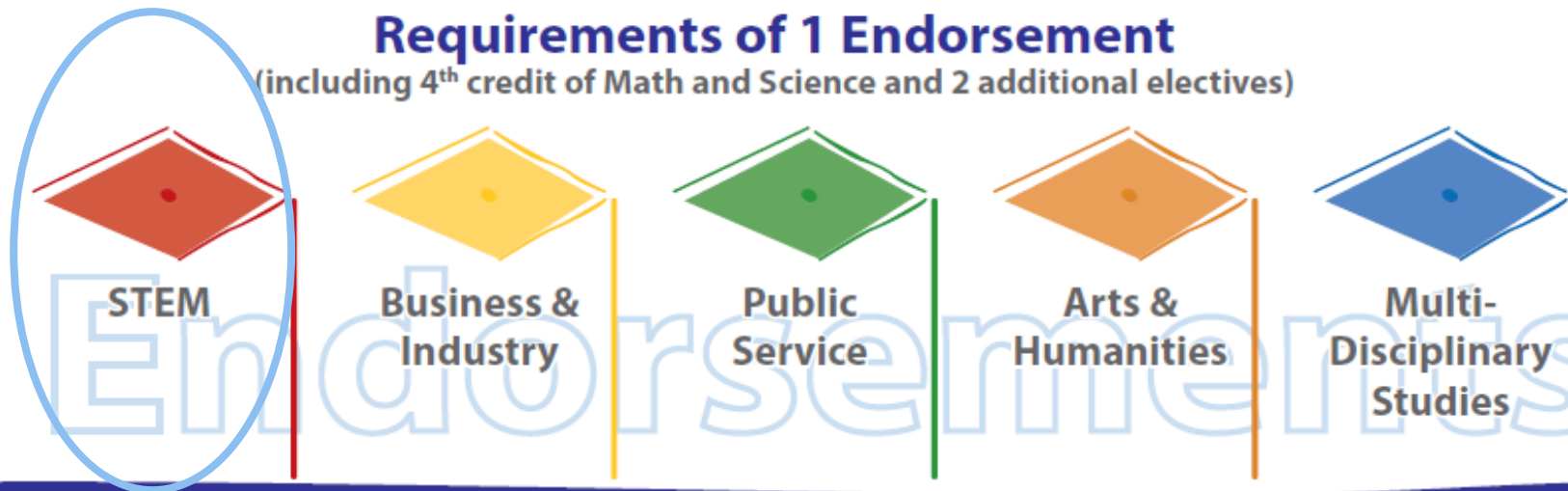
Distinguished Level of Achievement

26 Credits • Algebra II Required • Eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admissions to Texas Public Universities

22 Credits for the Foundation High School Program

Requirements of 1 Endorsement

(including 4th credit of Math and Science and 2 additional electives)



Be sure to visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.
Students may earn more than one endorsement.

But the truth is...

There are not enough teachers to teach Computer Science courses in K-12.

- It's been shown that students' positive exposure to coding and CS correlates to majoring in CS in college.
- Our high schools fail to offer CS because there are not enough qualified CS teachers to meet demand.

Why code? (Reason #2)

To understand the networked world in which students are growing up in.

- We are already living in a world dominated by software
- The next generation's world will be even more online and digital



Why code? (Reason #3)

To promote computational thinking.

- Combines mathematics, logic and algorithms to solve problems
- Teaches you how to tackle large problems by breaking them down into a sequence of smaller, more manageable problems
- Helps you go from specific solutions to general ones
- Helps you understand and master technology of all sorts and solve problems in almost any discipline



Why code? (Reason #4)

To develop skills in...

- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Persistence
- Application of logic
- Attention to details
- Problem decomposition
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Pattern recognition
- Abstraction
- Algorithmic thinking



Why code? (Reason #5)

To learn a global language that is more common than any spoken language.

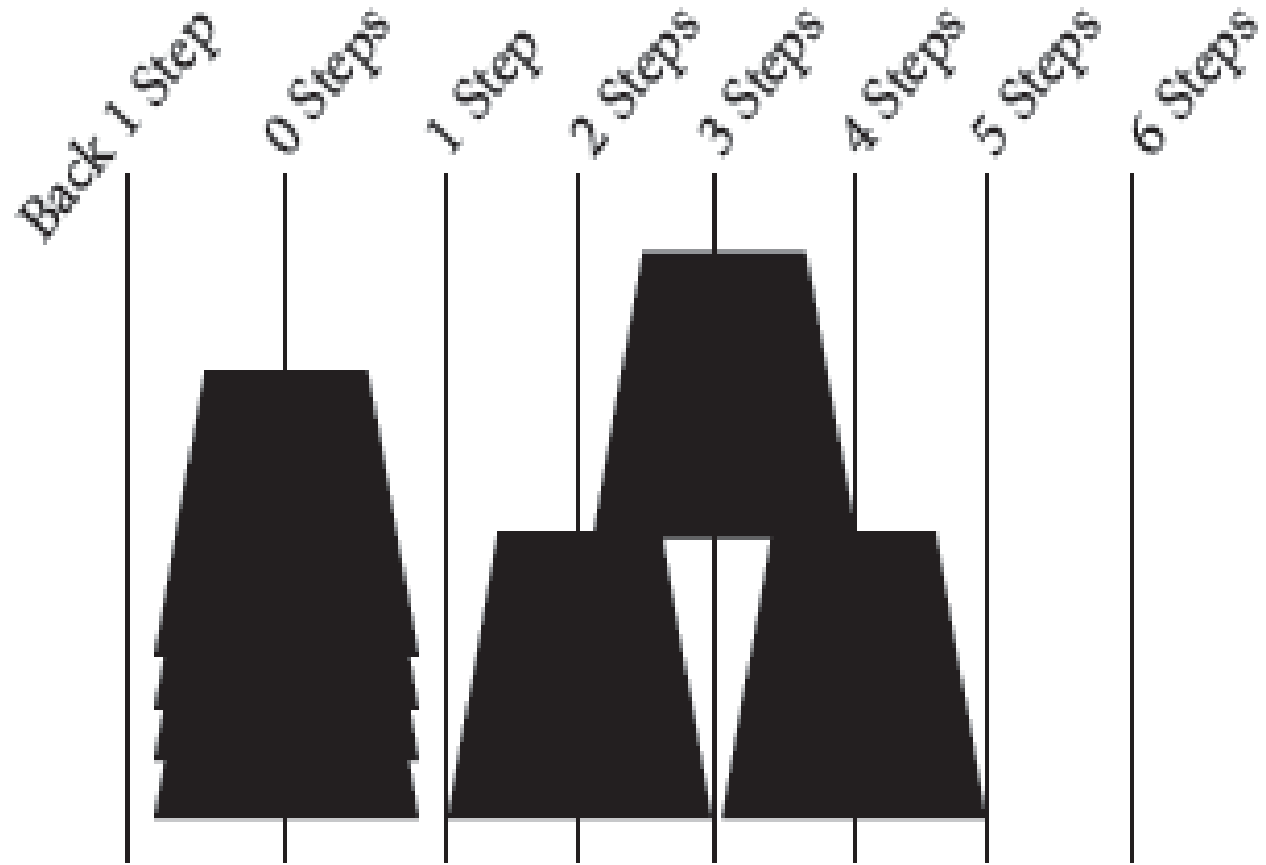
- The study of language in which you learn a system of signs, symbols and rules to communicate improves thinking by challenging the brain to recognize, negotiate meaning and master different language patterns
- Memorizing rules and vocabulary strengthens mental muscles and improves overall memory
- Learning a language increases perception













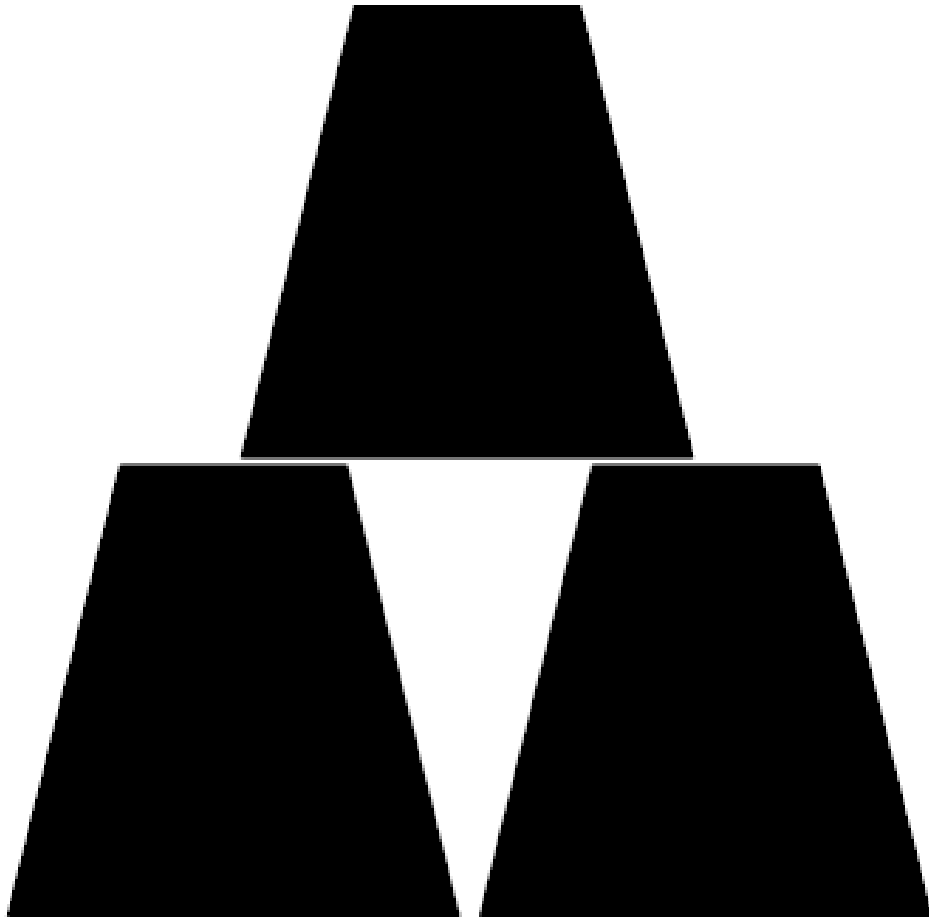
“Unplugged” Activity









Robot Friends

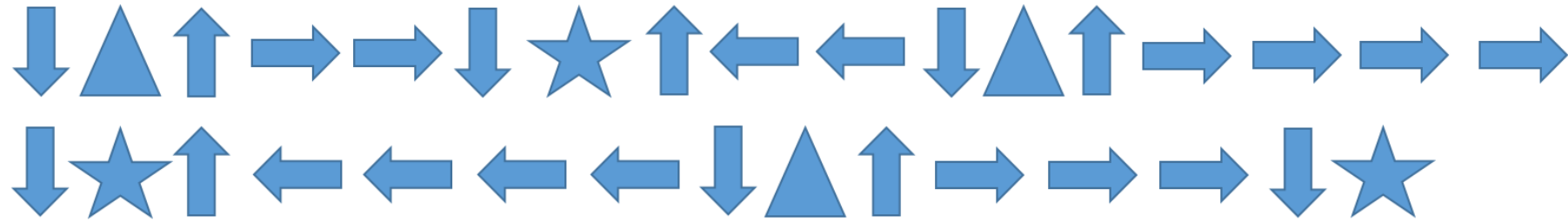


 <p>Move robot arm up</p>	 <p>Move robot arm down</p>
 <p>Rotate cup 90°</p>	 <p>Make a "BEEP" sound</p>
 <p>Grab cup</p>	 <p>Release cup</p>
 <p>Move 1/2 cup width forward</p>	 <p>Move 1/2 cup width backward</p>

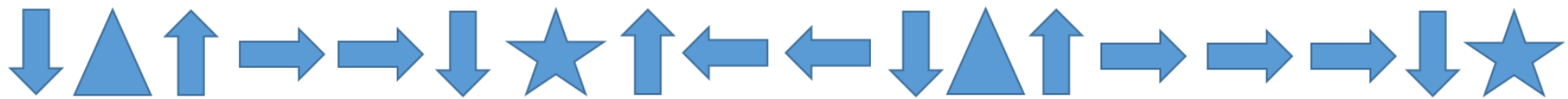
Challenge #1



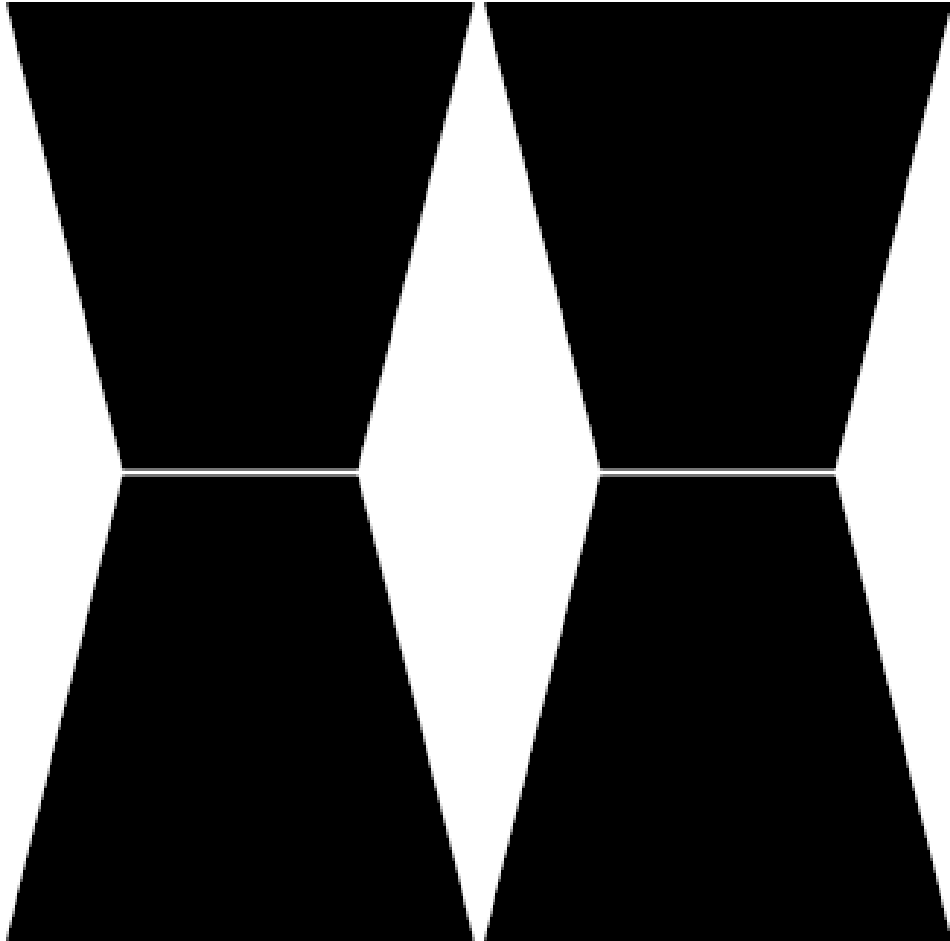
 Move robot arm up	 Move robot arm down
 Rotate cup 90°	 Make a "BEEP" sound
 Grab cup	 Release cup
 Move 1/2 cup width forward	 Move 1/2 cup width backward



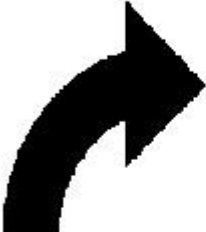







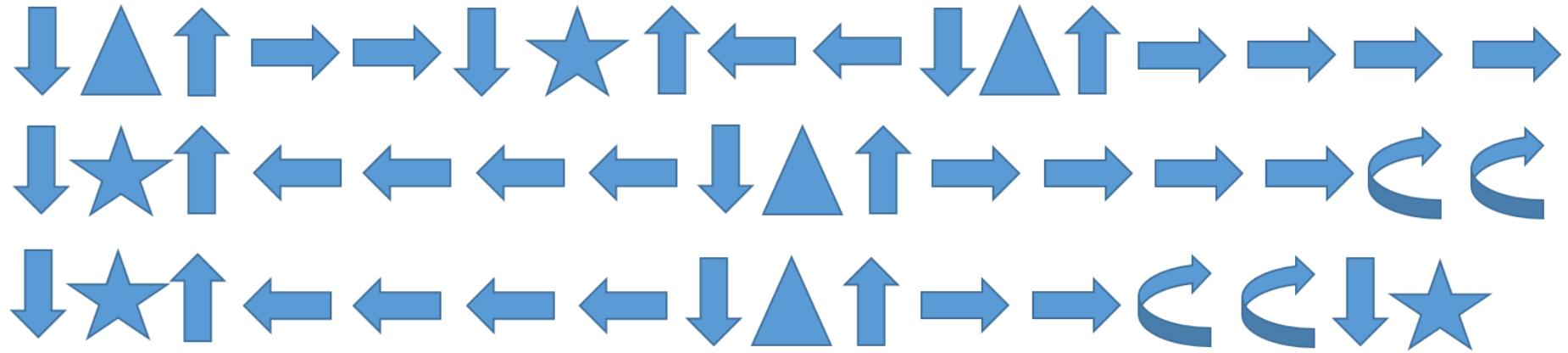
Or, if you are thinking out of the box...



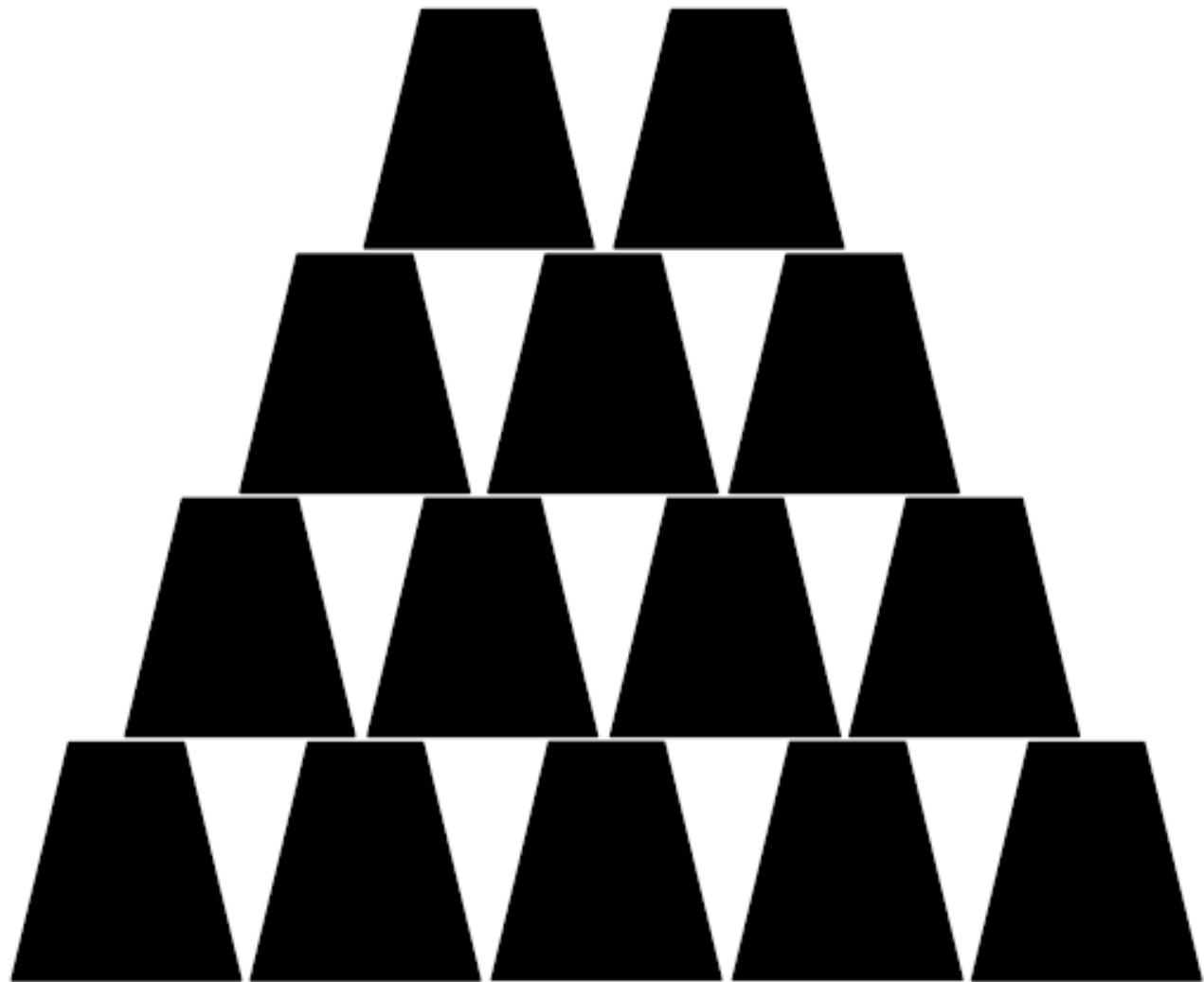
Challenge #2











 Move robot arm up	 Move robot arm down
 Rotate cup 90°	 Make a "BEEP" sound
 Grab cup	 Release cup
 Move 1/2 cup width forward	 Move 1/2 cup width backward



Challenge #3



 Move robot arm up	 Move robot arm down
 Rotate cup 90°	 Make a "BEEP" sound
 Grab cup	 Release cup
 Move 1/2 cup width forward	 Move 1/2 cup width backward

Think algebraically!

HINT:

Equations and Functions

Let $\downarrow \blacktriangle \uparrow = !$

And let $\downarrow \star \uparrow = ?$

$! 2 \rightarrow ? 2 \leftarrow ! 4 \rightarrow ? 4 \leftarrow ! 6 \rightarrow ? 6 \leftarrow !$

$8 \rightarrow ? 8 \leftarrow ! 10 \rightarrow ? 10 \leftarrow ! 3 \rightarrow ? 3 \leftarrow !$

$5 \rightarrow ? 5 \leftarrow \dots$

Vocabulary

- *ALGORITHM* – A series of instructions on how to accomplish a task
- *CODING* – Transforming actions into a symbolic language
- *DEBUGGING* – Finding and fixing the issues in code
- *FUNCTION* – A piece of code that can be called over and over
- *PARAMETERS* – Extra bits of information that you can pass into a function to customize it



*PLAY
CARGO BOT!*

*Skip to a harder
level to challenge
yourself!*



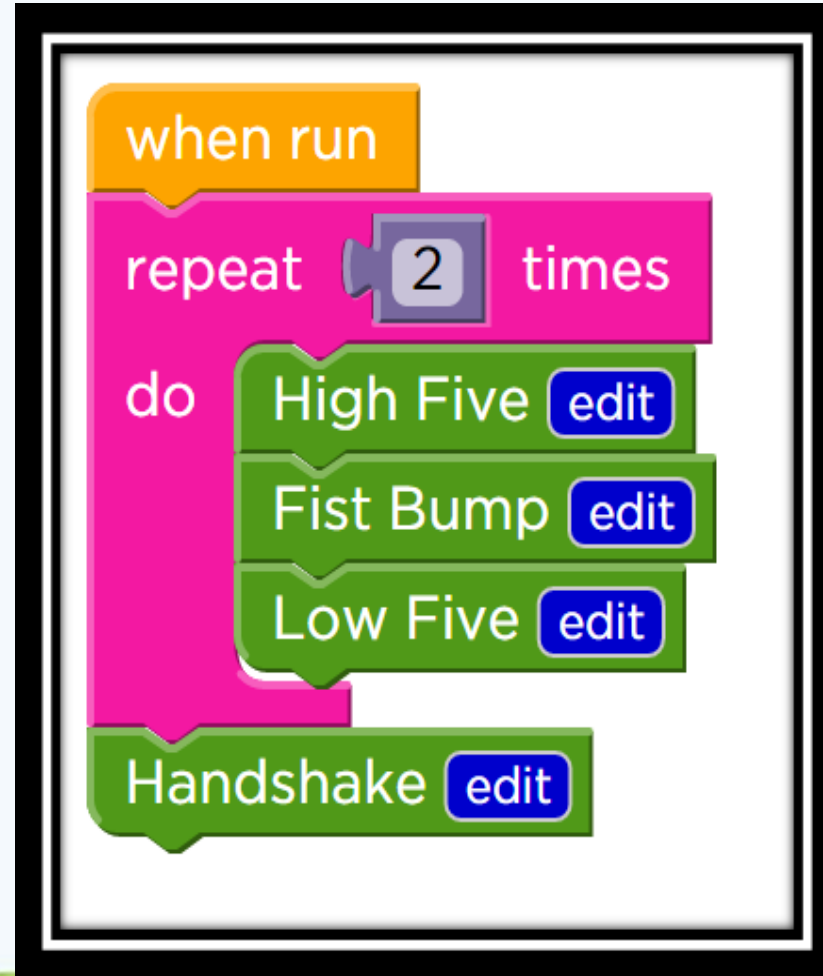
Computational Thinking

Have you seen the crazy handshakes that NBA players do?



https://youtu.be/8yievz9G_6Y

Run this code with a shoulder partner...



```
when run
repeat 2 times
do
  High Five
  Fist Bump
  Low Five
Handshake
```

The image shows a Scratch code block with a black border. It starts with an orange 'when run' block. Below it is a pink 'repeat' block with a camera icon and the number '2' in a grey box, followed by the word 'times'. Inside the repeat block is a green 'do' block containing three stacked green blocks: 'High Five', 'Fist Bump', and 'Low Five'. Each of these three blocks has a blue 'edit' button. Below the repeat block is a final green block labeled 'Handshake' with a blue 'edit' button.

Make your own special handshake!

```
when run
repeat 0 times
do
  _____ edit
  _____ edit
  _____ edit
  _____ edit
```

Discuss with a Shoulder Partner...

- *What is your process for solving really BIG problems?*
- *What are some really BIG problems in the world that could use some solving?*
- *Are you confident that the students of today will be able to solve these BIG problems?*



A Computational Thinking Exercise

ADD the numbers 1 to 200
in your head in 10 seconds

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 198 + 199 + 200$$

But computational thinking
(CT) helps you to do this:

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 198 + 199 + 200$$

Diagram illustrating the pairing of numbers from 1 to 200. Red brackets connect 1 to 200, 2 to 199, 3 to 198, and so on, up to 100 to 101. Each pair is labeled with the number 201. The number 200 is crossed out with a red line.

$$201 \times 100 = 20100$$

Computational Thinking is...

- ...the thought processes involved in formulating a problem and expressing its solution(s) in such a way that a computer—human or machine—can effectively carry out.

Why CODING?

www.fastcompany.com

3.31.16

These Will Be The Top Jobs In 2025 (And The Skills You'll Need To Get Them)

#1 - TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTATIONAL THINKING

It's no surprise that tech skills will be in demand. However, Fidler says that "computational thinking"—the ability to manage the massive amounts of data we process individually each day, spot patterns, and make sense out of all of it—will be valued. "As the total amount of information coming at you increases and increases, the ability to manage that in a way that you're not overwhelmed, is pretty key," he says.

Related jobs: Software developer jobs will grow 18.8% between now and 2024, [according to the BLS](#), while computer systems analyst jobs will increase 20.9% by 2024. Market research analyst and marketing specialist jobs, which also require those analytical skills, will increase 18.6%.

#2 CAREGIVING, #3 SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND NEW MEDIA LITERACY,
#4 LIFE LONG LEARNING, AND #5 ADAPTABILITY AND BUSINESS ACUMEN

SKILLS OF THE FUTURE

10 SKILLS YOU'LL NEED TO THRIVE IN 2020

WHAT IS THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is the fusion of digital, biological, and physical technologies. It is characterized by the convergence of the physical, digital, and biological worlds, leading to the creation of new products, services, and industries.

- ✓ Artificial intelligence
- ✓ Big data
- ✓ Biotechnology
- ✓ Cloud computing
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Virtual reality

WHAT ARE THE TOP 10 SKILLS YOU'LL NEED TO THRIVE IN 2020?

- 1. Complex Problem Solving**
The ability to identify, analyze, and solve complex problems using logic and critical thinking.
- 2. Critical Thinking**
The ability to analyze information objectively and make a reasoned judgment.
- 3. Creativity**
The ability to generate new ideas, concepts, and solutions.
- 4. People Management**
The ability to manage, develop, and lead a team of people.
- 5. Collaborating with Others**
The ability to work with others to achieve common goals.
- 6. Leadership**
The ability to influence, inspire, and guide a group of people.
- 7. Judgment and Decision Making**
The ability to weigh the pros and cons of different options and make a choice.
- 8. Systems Management**
The ability to manage and coordinate complex systems.
- 9. Negotiation**
The ability to resolve conflicts and reach agreements.
- 10. Cognitive Flexibility**
The ability to think about things from different perspectives and adapt to new situations.

WHAT ARE THE TOP 5 INDUSTRY SECTORS IN 2020?

1. Information Technology
2. Healthcare
3. Education
4. Manufacturing
5. Retail and Wholesale Trade

WHAT WILL BE THE 10 MOST IN-DEMAND JOBS IN 2020?

1. Data Analyst
2. Software Engineer
3. Product Manager
4. Business Development Representative
5. Project Manager
6. Human Resources
7. Sales Representative
8. Customer Support Representative
9. Operations Manager
10. Marketing Specialist

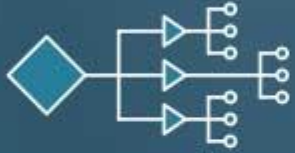
Deloitte | Jensen
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<https://careersportal.ie/careerplanning/story.php?ID=2501203022>

Computational Thinking

Decomposing



Abstraction



Pattern recognition

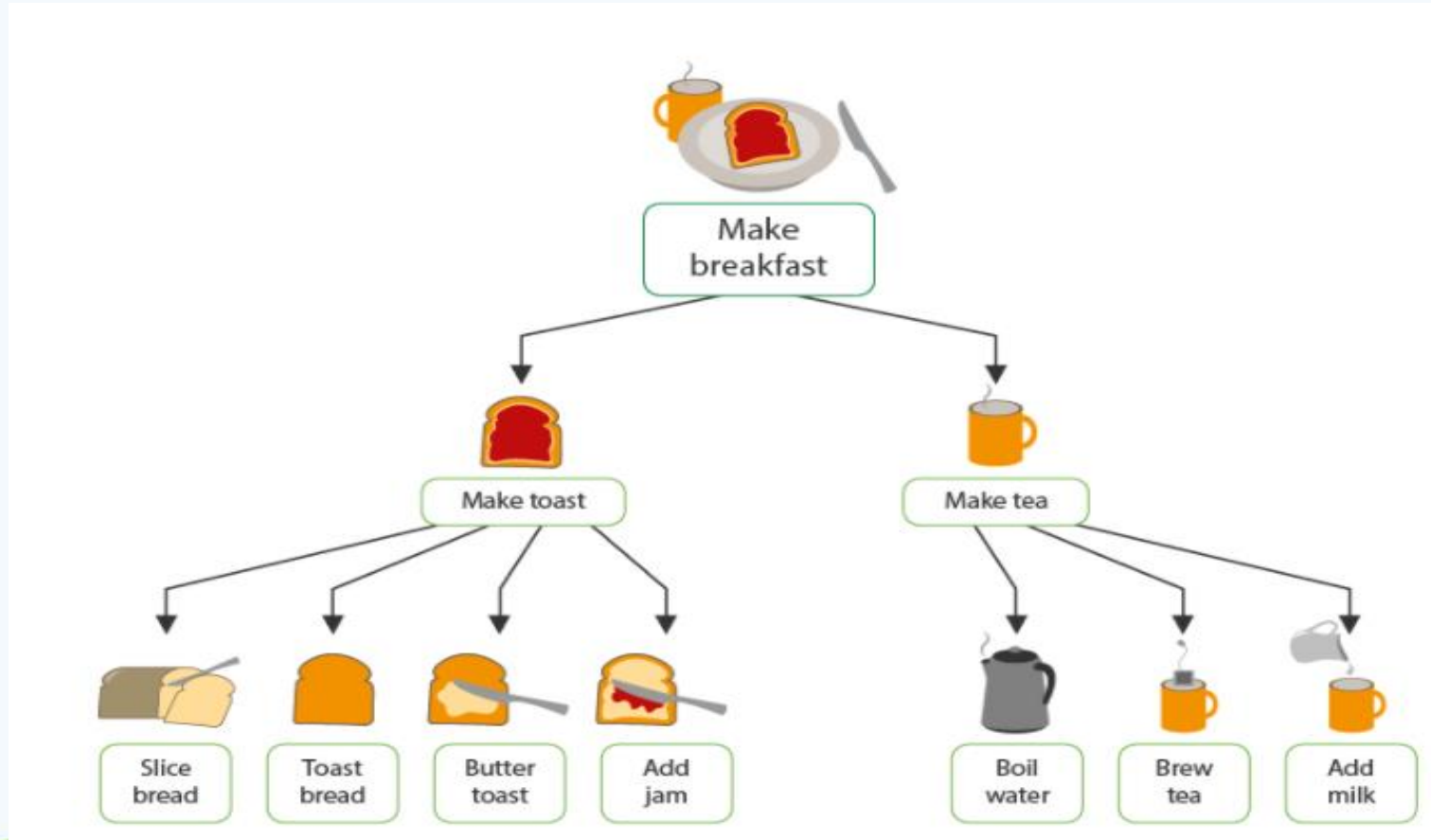


Algorithms



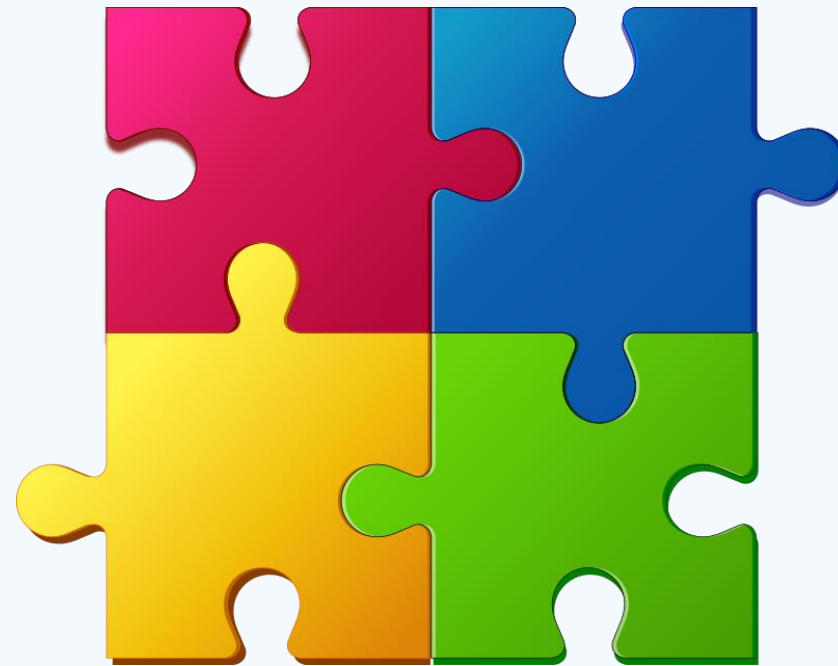
Decomposition

- *Breaking a problem down into smaller pieces.*



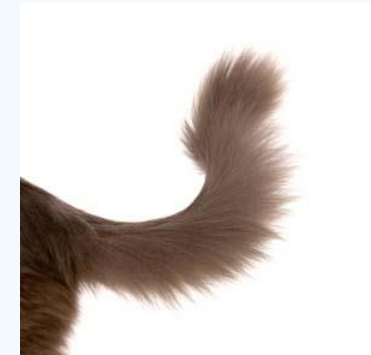
Pattern Recognition

- *Finding similarities between things.*



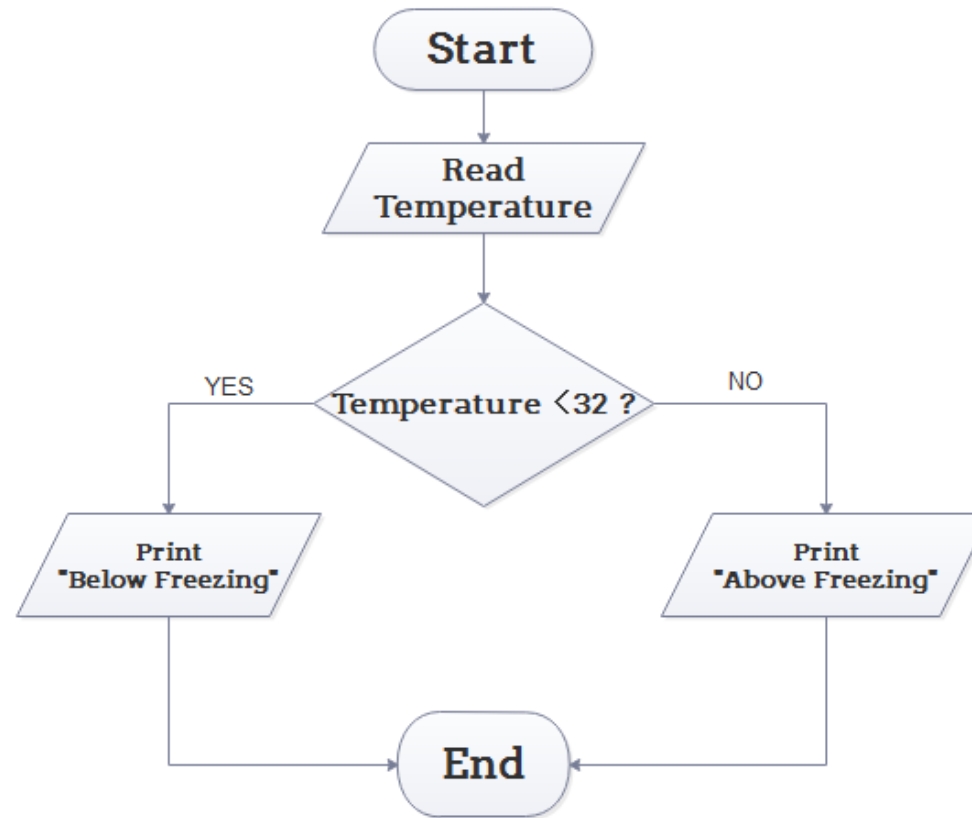
Abstraction

- Pulling out specific differences to make one solution work for multiple problems.



Algorithms

- A list of steps that you can follow to finish a task.



Concepts

Logic
predicting & analysing

Algorithms
making steps & rules

Decomposition
breaking down into parts

Patterns
spotting & using similarities

Abstraction
removing unnecessary
detail

Evaluation
making judgement

The Computational Thinker:
Concepts & Approaches



Tinkering
experimenting & playing

Creating
designing & making

Debugging
finding & fixing
errors

Persevering
keeping going

Collaborating
working together

Approaches



ISTE Standards

<https://www.iste.org/explore/articleDetail?articleid=152>



Computational Thinking Activity

Building Your Monster

Building Your Monster

We have been selected to help identify some monsters found on the planet Zuron. We need to describe these things based on descriptions that we already have of certain eye-witness accounts. There are quite a few monsters to describe, and it may seem challenging, but I'm going to give you some tools to help you out.

TASK: Draw your own unique monster using the various parts you are provided by tracing them. When you are done, give your monster a name.

Building Your Monster

Step 1 - Decompose

We're not just talking about zombies here. Instead, we're talking about breaking a big, bad problem down into something much more simple. Often, big problems are just lots of little problems stuck together.

TASK: We have cataloged 3 variety of monster. Now, you need to catalog all of the monsters at your table. Start by comparing your monster with your table-mates and make a list of features to identify.

Building Your Monster

Step 2 – Patterns

Sometimes, when a problem has lots of little pieces, you will notice that the pieces have something in common. If they don't, then they may at least have some striking similarities to some pieces of another problem that has been solved before. If you can spot these patterns, understanding your pieces gets much easier.

TASK: What are some things that all of the monsters have? What are things that are similar between monsters of certain groups?

Building Your Monster

Step 3 – Abstraction

Once you recognize a pattern, you can “abstract out” (ignore) the details that make things different and use the general framework to find a solution that works for more than one problem.

TASK: Create a list of all the different features that the monsters with the details abstracted out of the sentence

Building Your Monster

Step 4 – Algorithms

When your solution is complete, you can write it up in a way that allows it to be processed step by step, so that the results are easy to achieve.

TASK: Arrange your steps into a list that other groups can use to recreate a monster. Write your algorithm on the side of your monster.

*Example:
Draw WACKUS eyes.*

Building Your Monster

VOCABULARY:

Computational Thinking—A method of problem-solving that helps computer scientists prepare problems for digital solutions

Abstraction—Removing details from a solution so that it can work for many problems

Algorithm—A list of steps that allow you to complete a task

Decompose—To break a hard problem up into smaller, easier ones

Pattern—A theme that is repeated many times

Program—Instructions that can be understood and followed by a machine

Teaching coding and CT to prereaders...

- To immerse children in versatile activities that align with standards in multiple areas:
 - MATH
 - PROBLEM SOLVING
 - COMMUNICATION
 - LITERACY

<https://youtu.be/5nCzs4xglOQ>



8 Reasons Why Every Child Should Learn to Code

1. To learn to problem solve
2. To give kids a challenge and help them develop resilience
3. To teach children how to think
4. To expand their creativity
5. Because it is the future
6. There is lack of skills in the software industry
7. To help children learn to have fun with math
8. To learn while having fun

<https://teachyourkidscode.com/why-coding-is-important-to-learn/>



Committees:

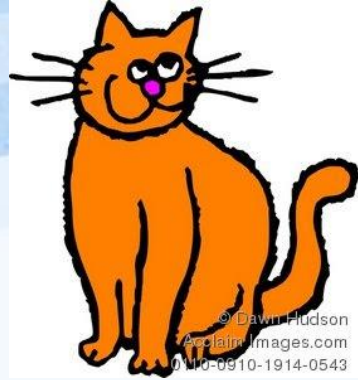
- Location and Time
- Guests / Invitations
- Decorations
- Food
- Games
- Music
- Theme
- Safety
- Other Entertainment



Computational Thinking Decomposition Activity

Let's Plan an End-of-the-Year Educator Party!





Computational Thinking Pattern Recognition Activity

Everybody Wants to be a Cat!





Computational Thinking Abstraction Activity

Sorting

*What categories can you sort the
puzzle pieces into?*



Computational Thinking Abstraction Activity

The Book With No Pictures by BJ Novak,
<https://youtu.be/MxfZwgLzHbY>

Other books:

In My Heart: The Book of Feelings

This Is Not A Book

Ask Me

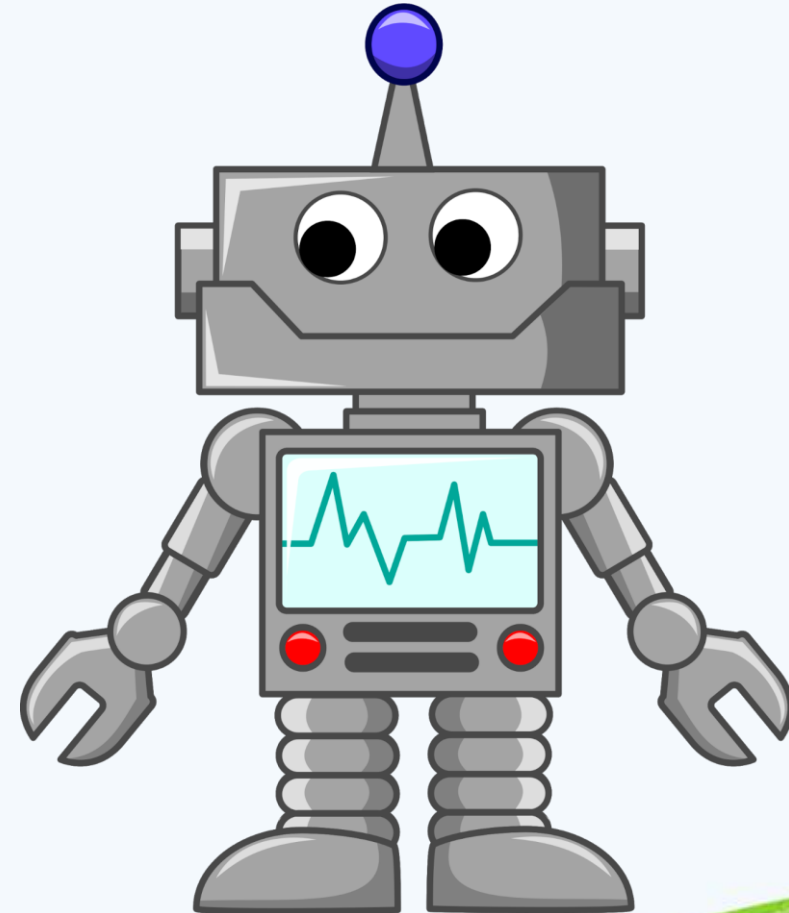
The Curious Guide to Things That Aren't



Computational Thinking Algorithms Activity

PB & J Activity

PB & J Activity



PB & J Activity

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDA3_5982h8





Computational Thinking Algorithms Activity

Paper Airplanes

<https://code.org/curriculum/course2/2/Teacher>



Final Thoughts



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Thank you!

WiFi: Region One Guest

PW: Webb1848

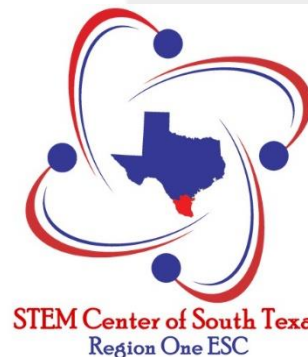



Early Childhood

STEAM Educator Academies

WS 110238 - Day 2

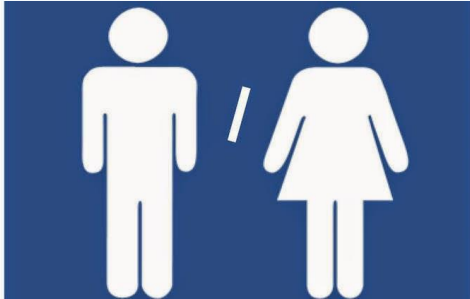
Coding and Computational Thinking



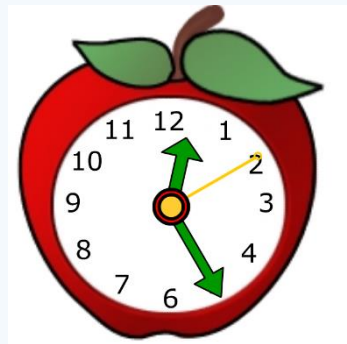


Day 1 Recap

Norms



@ESC1_STEM



8:30 AM – 3:30 PM



11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Objectives

- Answer the question “why should we teach computer science?”
- Gain an understanding of computational thinking
- Learn why we should introduce coding to prereaders
- Experience various strategies to teach fundamental Computer Science to young children

Agenda

Day 1

- What is Computer Science?
- What is computational thinking?
- Developing computational thinking in prereaders

Day 2

- Teaching Computer Science fundamentals to prereaders through play
- Using electronic technology
 - LEGO WeDo 2.0
 - Code.org and Hour of Code
 - Ozobot EVO
 - Tynker Junior



Icebreaker

Copy My LEGO Build



- Each pair will get a baggie of LEGOs. Separate them so that each of you has an identical set.
- The person with the shorter hair will be the “programmer” 1st. You will have 5 minutes to build something using your set of LEGOs. Make sure the divider folder is hiding your build from your partner. The other person can hang tight during this time.
- The “programmer” now must give the “computer” verbal instructions on how to recreate their build.
- When you are done, reveal both builds and compare.

HOUR
OF
CODE


HOW-TO PROMOTE FAQ

English

An Hour of Code for
every student.

262,149,364 served

Join us

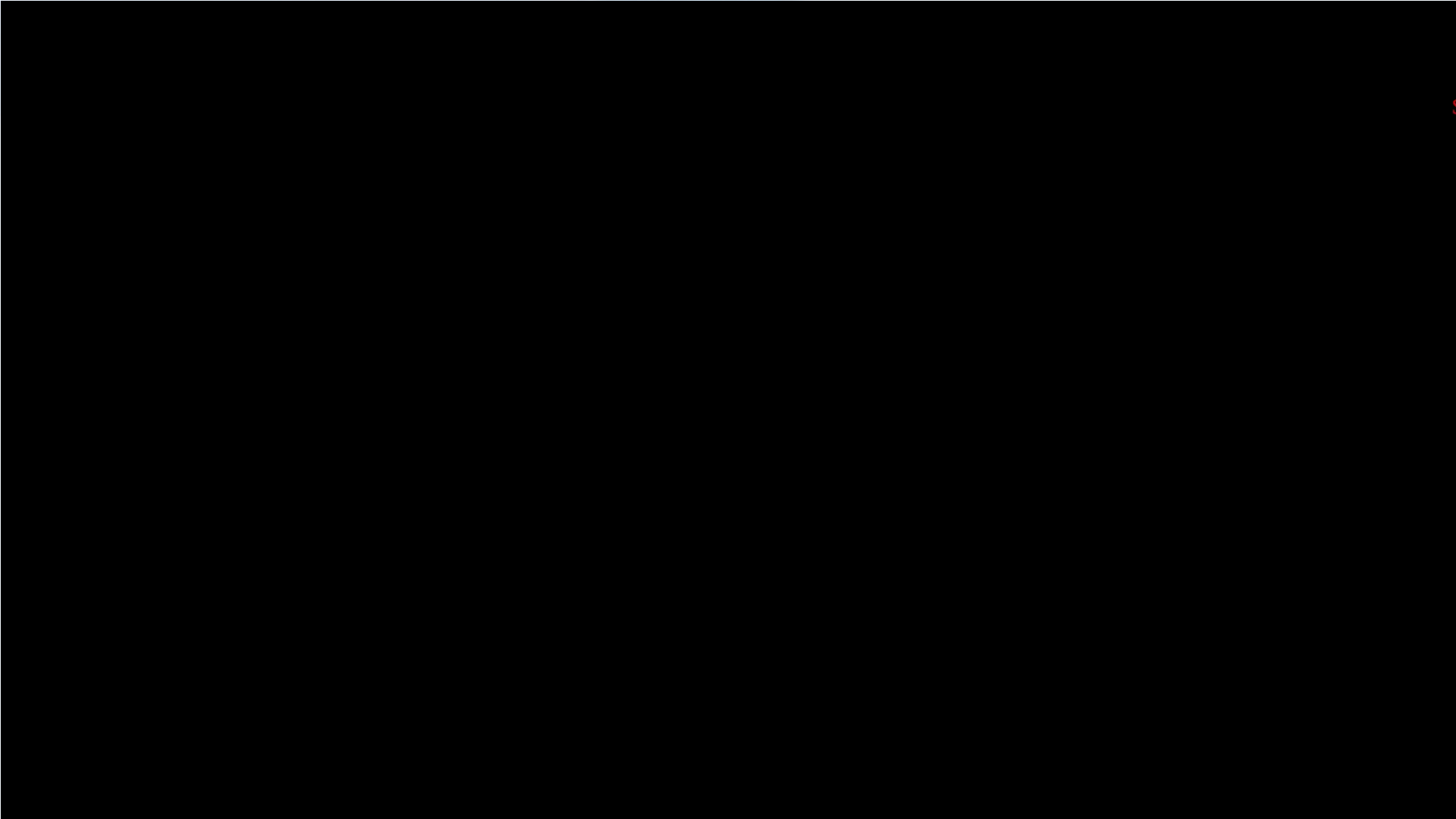
Watch the video 

Technical volunteers wanted

Computer Science
Education Week DECEMBER 9-15, 2019



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Let's do an hour of code!



Daisy the Dinosaur



Kodable



Hopscotch



ScratchJr



Lightbot HOC



Tynker

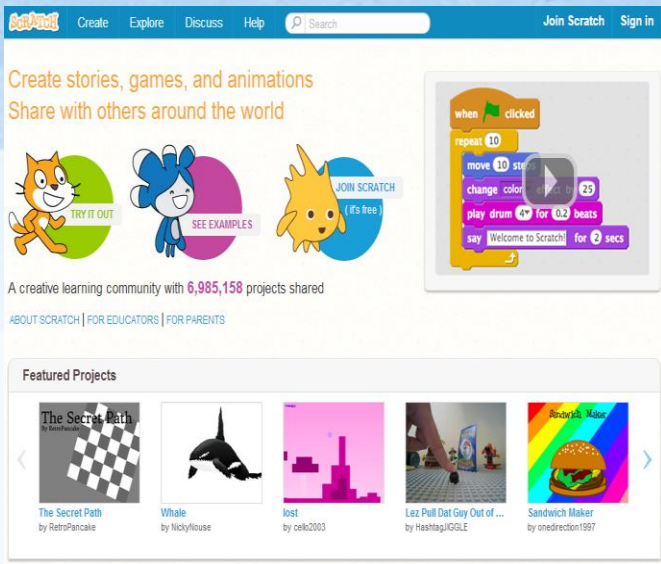


Cargo-bot



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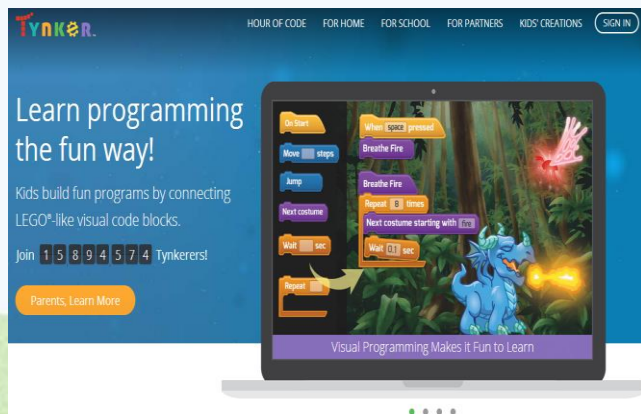
Apps



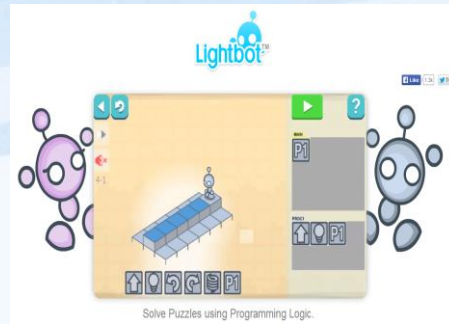
Scratch website homepage featuring navigation links (Create, Explore, Discuss, Help, Search, Join Scratch, Sign in), the tagline "Create stories, games, and animations. Share with others around the world", character avatars (Scratch Cat, Scratch Mitten, Scratch Mouse), a featured project snippet with code blocks, and a "Featured Projects" carousel with thumbnails for "The Secret Path", "Whale", "lost", "Lez Pull Dat Gay Out of...", and "Sandwich Maker".

Scratch.mit.edu

Tynker.com

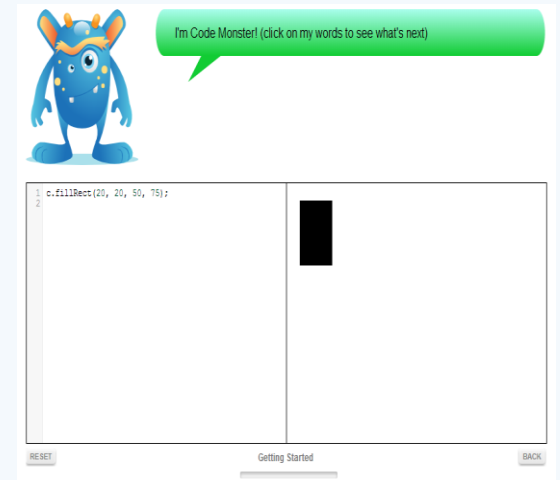


Tynker website homepage with navigation links (Hour of Code, For Home, For School, For Partners, Kids' Creations, Sign In), the tagline "Learn programming the fun way!", the text "Kids build fun programs by connecting LEGO®-like visual code blocks.", a "Join" button with a counter "15894574 Tynkerers!", a "Parents, Learn More" button, and a central image of a laptop displaying a colorful game with visual code blocks.



Lightbot website interface showing a robot character on a grid, a code editor with blocks for "when clicked", "repeat 10", "move 10 steps", "change color", "play drum for 0.2 beats", and "say Welcome to Scratch! for 2 secs", and a "Solve Puzzles using Programming Logic." prompt.

Lightbot.com

Code-Monster website interface showing a blue monster character, a green speech bubble saying "I'm Code Monster! (click on my words to see what's next)", a code editor with the text "c.fillRect(20, 20, 50, 75);", and a "Getting Started" button.

crunchzilla.com/
Code-Monster





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ozobot.
IMAGINATION IN PLAY



Color code reference chart OzoCodes



SPEED

SNAIL DOSE	SLOW	CRUISE
FAST	TURBO	NITRO BOOST

DIRECTION

GO LEFT	GO STRAIGHT	GO RIGHT
JUMP LEFT	JUMP STRAIGHT	JUMP RIGHT
U TURN	U TURN (LINE END)	

TIMERS

TIMER ON (30 SEC. TO STOP)	TIMER OFF	PAUSE (3 SEC.)

COOL MOVES

TORNADO	ZIGZAG	SPIN	BACKWALK

WIN/EXITS

WIN/EXIT (PLAY AGAIN)
WIN/EXIT (GAME OVER)

COUNTERS

FIVE DOWN TO STOP

ENABLE X-ING COUNTER
ENABLE TURN COUNTER
ENABLE PATH COLOR COUNTER
ENABLE OZOPILL COUNTER
OZOPILL +1
OZOPILL -1



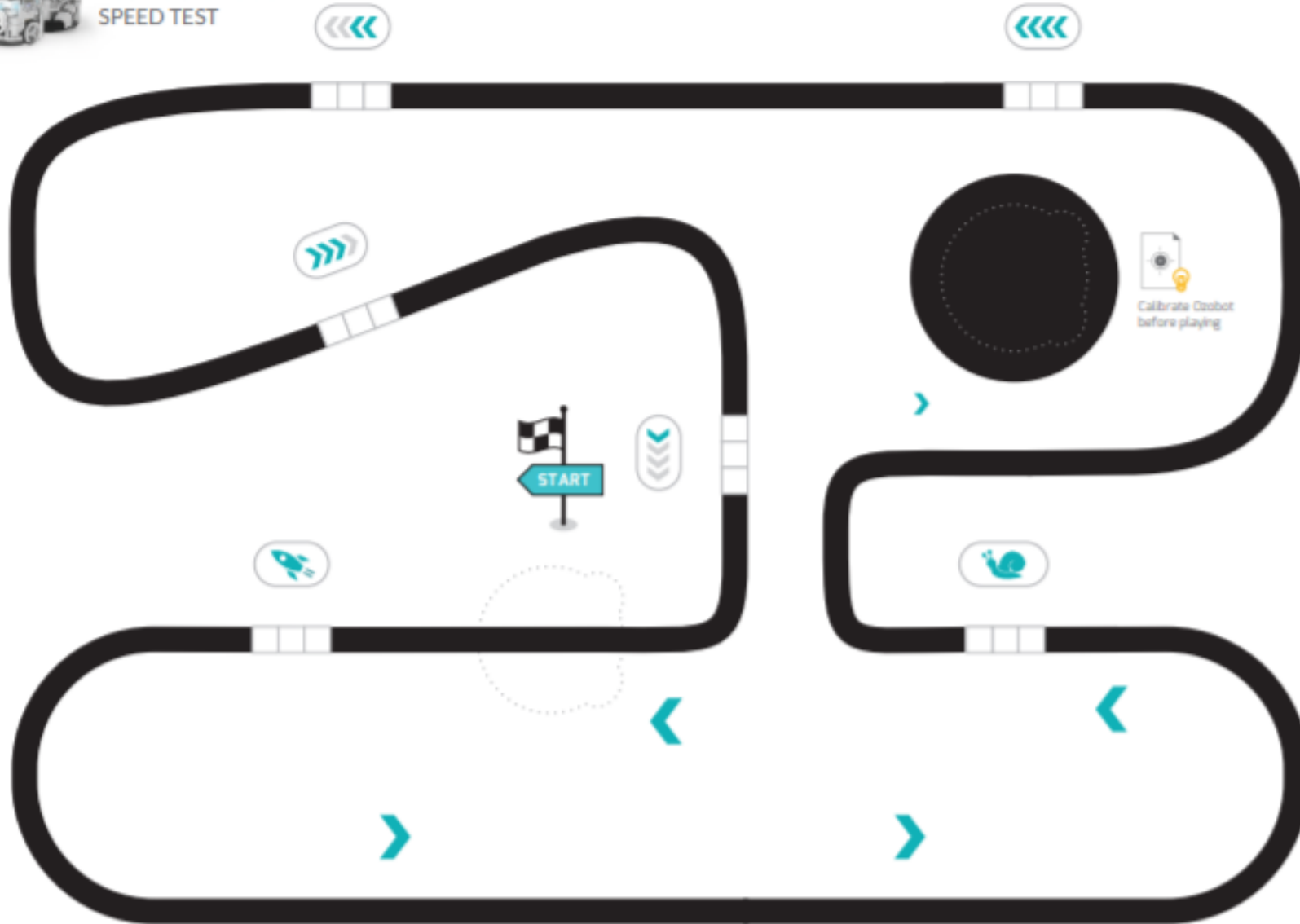
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Tour de Ozobot

SPEED TEST

Name: _____



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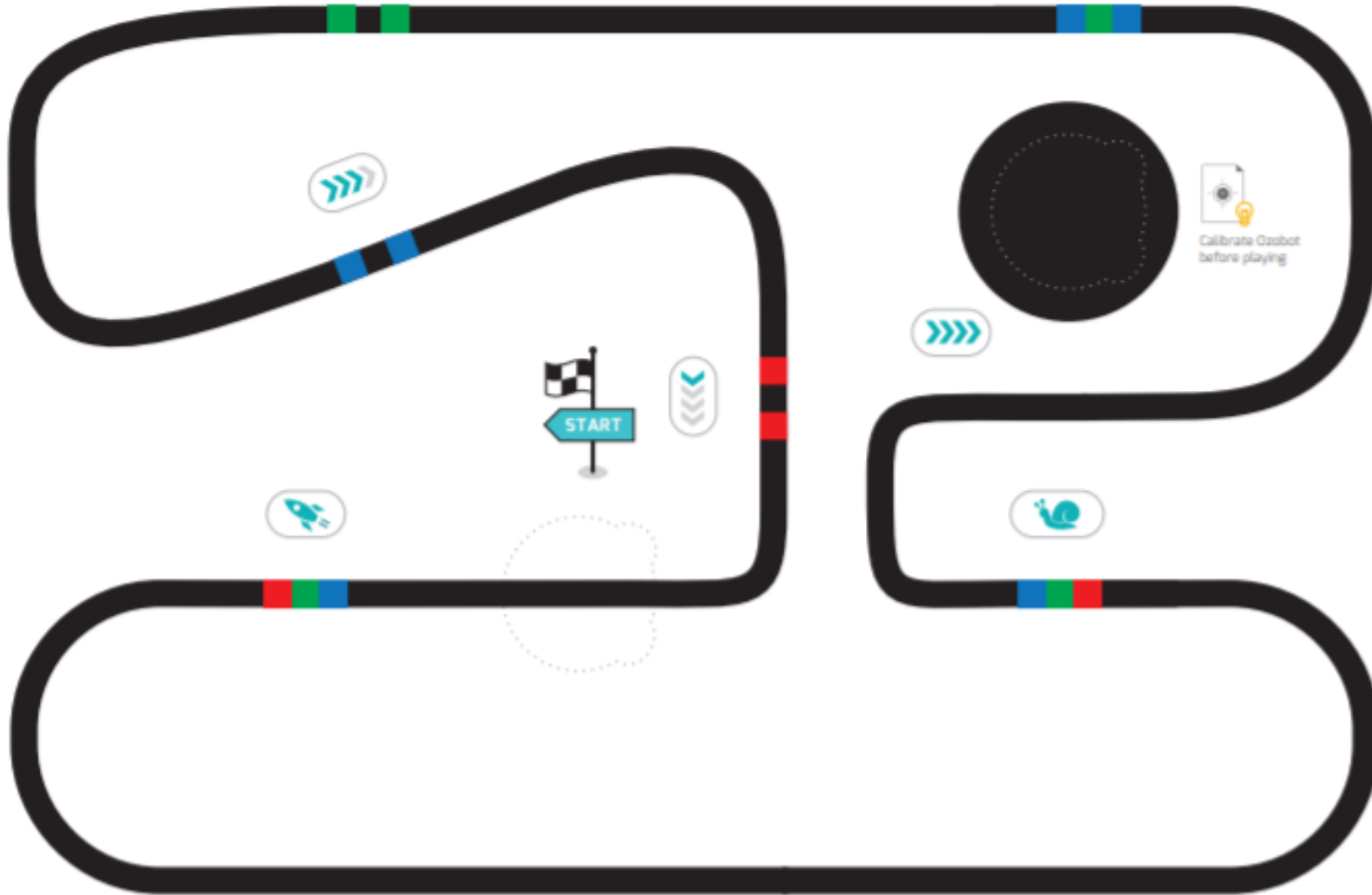


Tour de Ozobot

SPEED TEST



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LEGO WeDo 2.0



tynker_@esc1.net

drone2018

Why Teach Coding to Prereaders?

- To lay down the foundations for children to think like a computer programmer through fun hands-on games and activities
- To give children the ability to understand how to “tinker” and shape their digital world
- To offer children experiences that integrate communication, thinking, and problem solving

Go On a Treasure Hunt

- A treasure hunt requires many of the skills that computer programmers use when coding. By creating a treasure hunt with instructions and directions, children can follow to find their treasure. This teaches children about **algorithms**, a set of instructions to help a computer perform a specific task.
- There is no prep required for this activity! Simply place “treasures” all around the room or garden, then draw a map with instructions. A simple example could be: 2 big steps forward, 3 big steps right, Climb under the table, 4 big steps left, and so on.
- If they make a mistake they must go back and start again (debug the code!) until they find where the treasure is hidden.

Solve a Maze

- Following a maze is a great coding activity for preschoolers because it helps them to develop resilience. If they find they are going in the wrong direction, they need to go back and try again until they find another path to follow.
- To add some extra fun make a blindfolded maze! Have one child act as the 'computer' and one as the 'programmer'. The programmer has to give instructions (algorithm!) to help the blindfolded computer through the maze!

Story Sequence

- Telling stories is a great way to help preschoolers develop coding skills. Break up the story into pieces, perhaps by picture, mix them up and have the kids put the story in the right order.
- Kids will have to study each piece and think logically in order to work out which piece of the story goes first and put each piece in the correct order to be able to read the story from start to finish. This teaches the important skills of **sequencing**, which is a vital part of understanding how to code.
- All kids love a good story, so why not break it down for them.

Puzzles

- *Problem-solving is one of the things computer programmers need to be good at. Puzzles can help pre-schoolers with this type of skill because essentially you are giving them a problem to solve. Kids need to look at what the puzzle looks like, and examine the pieces to eventually put them all together to finish the puzzle. Breaking a big picture into small steps is the foundation of coding!*

Building Blocks

- Building blocks are perfect for encouraging future engineers and programmers. Children can get creative and build something they can be proud of.
- Building something out of blocks takes patience, persistence, and determination; all skills needed in computer programming!
- Logical thinking is also important. Children need to think about how and if the blocks can balance and where to put them in order to do so.
- To add a twist, you can make a chain reaction with blocks and dominoes! Chain reactions help children understand cause-and-effect, and, they are a whole lot of fun!

Follow a LEGO Set

- Coding is essentially giving a computer a step-by-step guide in order to produce a desired result. Lego is the perfect way to demonstrate this process to pre-schoolers.
- There are many different Lego sets for all ages and skill levels, and kids can move up as they get better at it. You might be surprised that even pre-readers can follow instructions for a LEGO set.
- Once they have finished their Lego piece, they can practice writing their own instructions for you to make it. Having them “teach” you how to do something will teach them how to build their own instructions. **Building instructions** is a foundational coding concept.
- If you are unable to create the Lego piece with the instructions given, they will realize that there is something wrong with the instructions, and need to go back and amend them in order for you to achieve the desired result. This is the concept of **debugging!**

Games Using Math

- Pretty much any game or activity that uses mathematics skills is a useful coding activity for pre-schoolers. There are lots of easy and fun number sense games that help teach preschoolers to understand numbers. It could be a board game, a made-up sports game, or a maze or treasure hunt giving clues in the form of maths.
- One way to get preschoolers counting is by using a grid maze. Kids have to be able to count the spaces in the grid to give their 'computer' the right instructions.
- Anything that gets pre-schoolers using their math skills will help them to develop computer programming skills.

If-Then Coding Game

- If Then is what's called a conditional statement in programming. The program queries if one condition exists, then it commands it to do something. It can be as basic as a True or False question and answer or it can prompt an action.
- For every round, there is one Programmer and everyone else is a Computer. The Programmer stands in front of the Computers and gives them his command. If I ___ (fill in the blank), then you ___ (fill in the blank). For example, the Programmer below gave the command "If I turn in a circle, Then you turn in a circle."
- Difficulty Level 1: If I do this, then you do this
- Difficulty Level 2: If I do this, then you do that
- Difficulty Level 3: If I do this, then you do that, else you do something else
- Difficulty Level 4: If-Then-Else speed round with eliminations
- While, Do.....Repeat



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Thank you!