

Let's Get Geared Up!

Activity Overview

When your students visit LEGOLAND® Discovery Center, they will be experimenting with different sizes of gears and observing their rotation and speed. To get your students geared up for their field trip, we recommend a brainstorm race, which is a great way to gauge their understanding of a topic and to get them energized about what's to come. During this activity, teams of students race to brainstorm and list as many machines that use gears as they can in a certain amount of time!

Setting the Scene

Gears are in many things that you see and use every day. A gear is a wheel with teeth and when meshed together with another gear can make things move. Gears can speed things up or slow things down.

Instructions

Divide the class into teams of four. Tell them that for this activity they have to think of all the machines they possibly can that have gears. They will have five minutes (or however long works best for your group) to brainstorm and create a list of as many geared mechanisms as they can come up with.

Ask the teams to take turns presenting their ideas. Keep a running list of correct answers on the board and take the opportunity to correct and talk through any mistakes the teams might suggest. The team that produces the longest list of geared machines is the winner.

Grades:
4-6

Activity Time:
10-20 minutes

