

# Science, Literacy and Language Development Through Hands-on Science



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- **Virginia Association of Science Teachers**
- **Virginia Science Leadership Learning Association**
- **Virginia STEM Conference**
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- **Summer Institute for the National Academy of Sciences**





# Science, Literacy and Language Development Through Hands-on Science

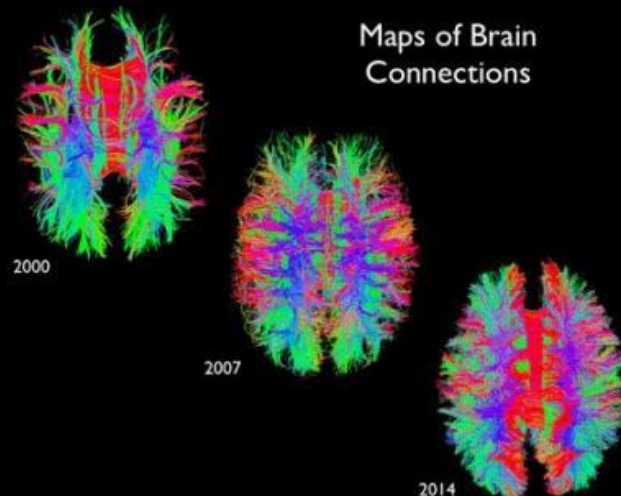
- What are the “**best teaching/learning practices**” for enhancing student success with the NGSS (science standards) as well as the **language/literacy standards (CCSS ELA)**? - **Interdisciplinarity**
- What is the **ST<sup>2</sup>REAM** model of learning and why is it more effective than the traditional approach of education (delivering “siloed” academic content)?
- How do **I** start off the school year as an **unknown** to my students and end up as an **unforgettable**?



*...a visual and conceptual tour...*



- Knowing who you teach (a child with 100B neurons capable of making an infinite number of learning **connections** for a lifetime) is just as important as **what** you teach (disciplinary content).
- “I teach science.” No, you teach **students** whose brains prefer to learn by actively **making elaborate connections**.

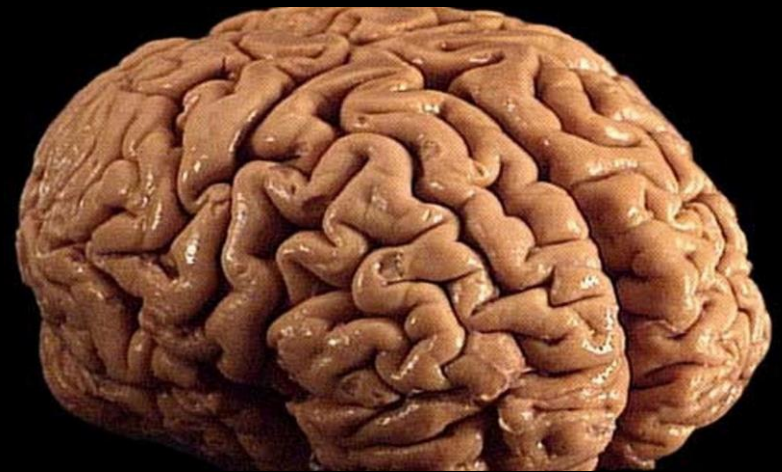




# Brain Science: Making Connections



**Experience the World**

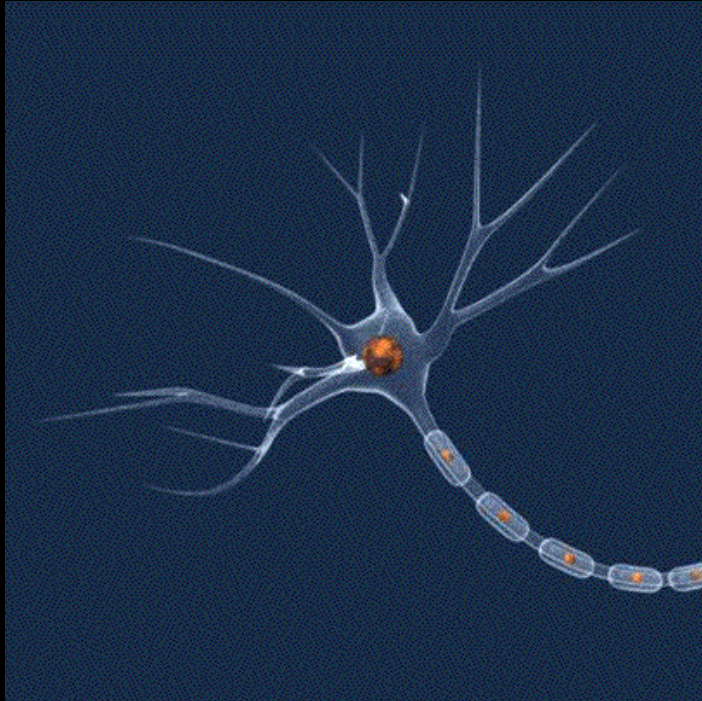


**24/7 we translate our interactions *with* the world into the chemical **language** of the brain, and create **circuits** that represent what we have experienced**



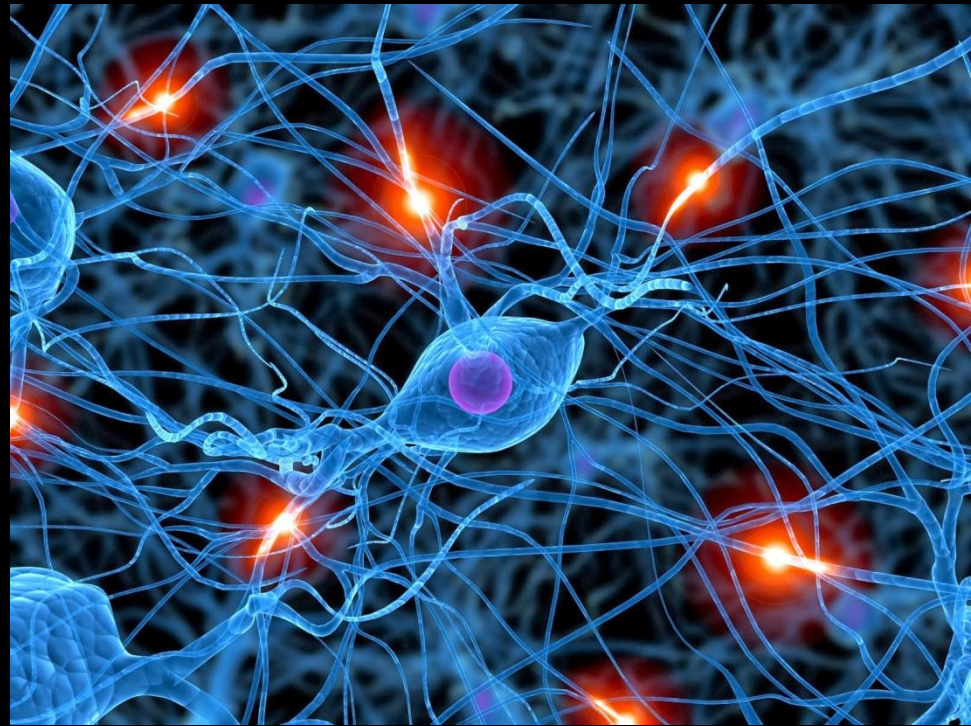


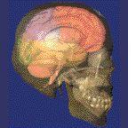
# The Science of Learning: Making Connections



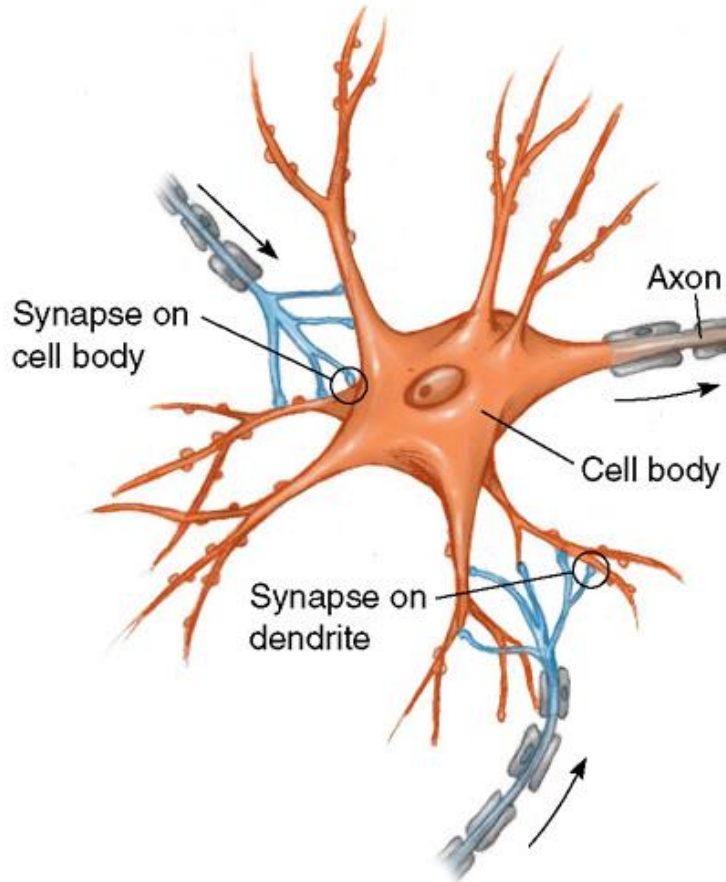
**Neuron sending an  
e-message down  
the axon)**

## Ensemble of neurons

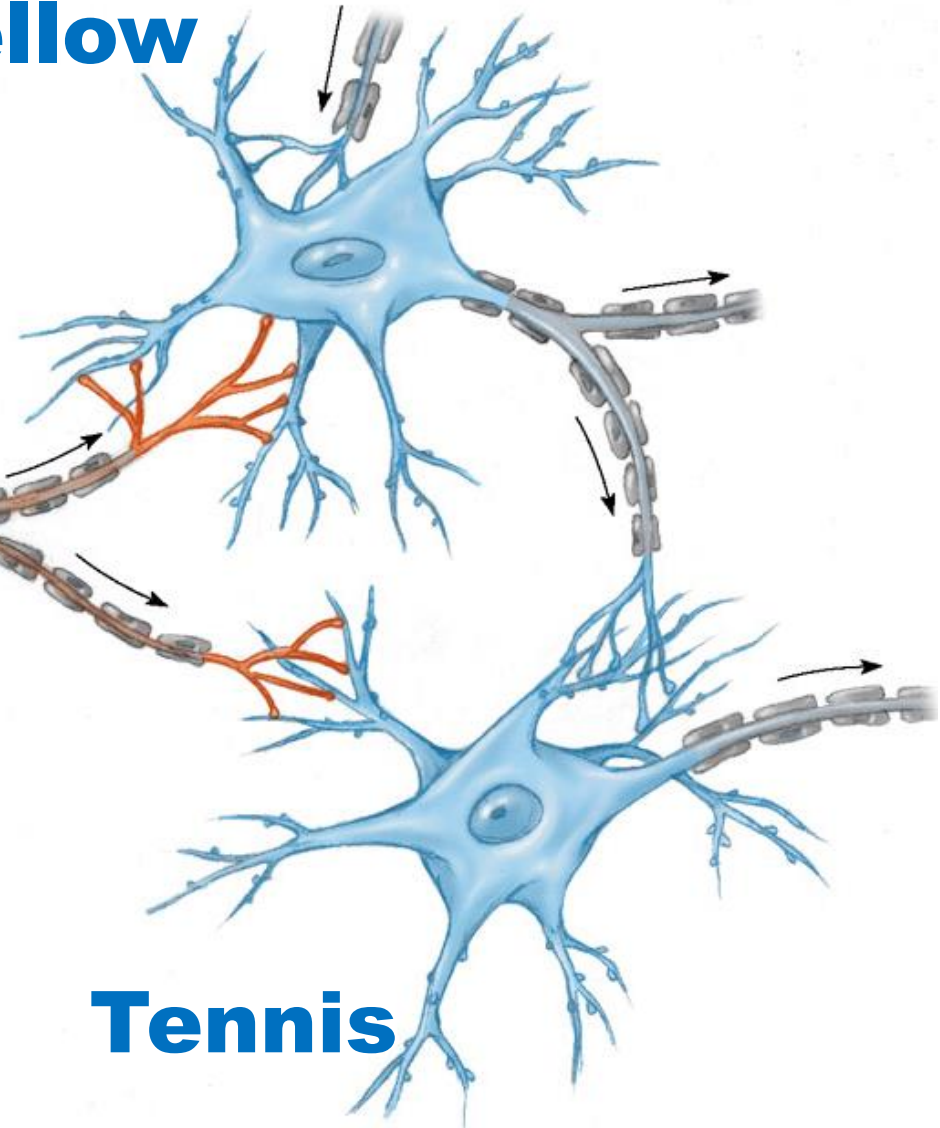




**ball**



**yellow**



**Tennis**

Prior to learning what a “yellow tennis ball” is, the *excitatory* neurons (brain cells) that are most prone to responding to *each* of these single elements already exist and they are anxiously awaiting activation (to “fire”). They only need *an experience* that will link them together.



# The Science of Learning: Making Connections

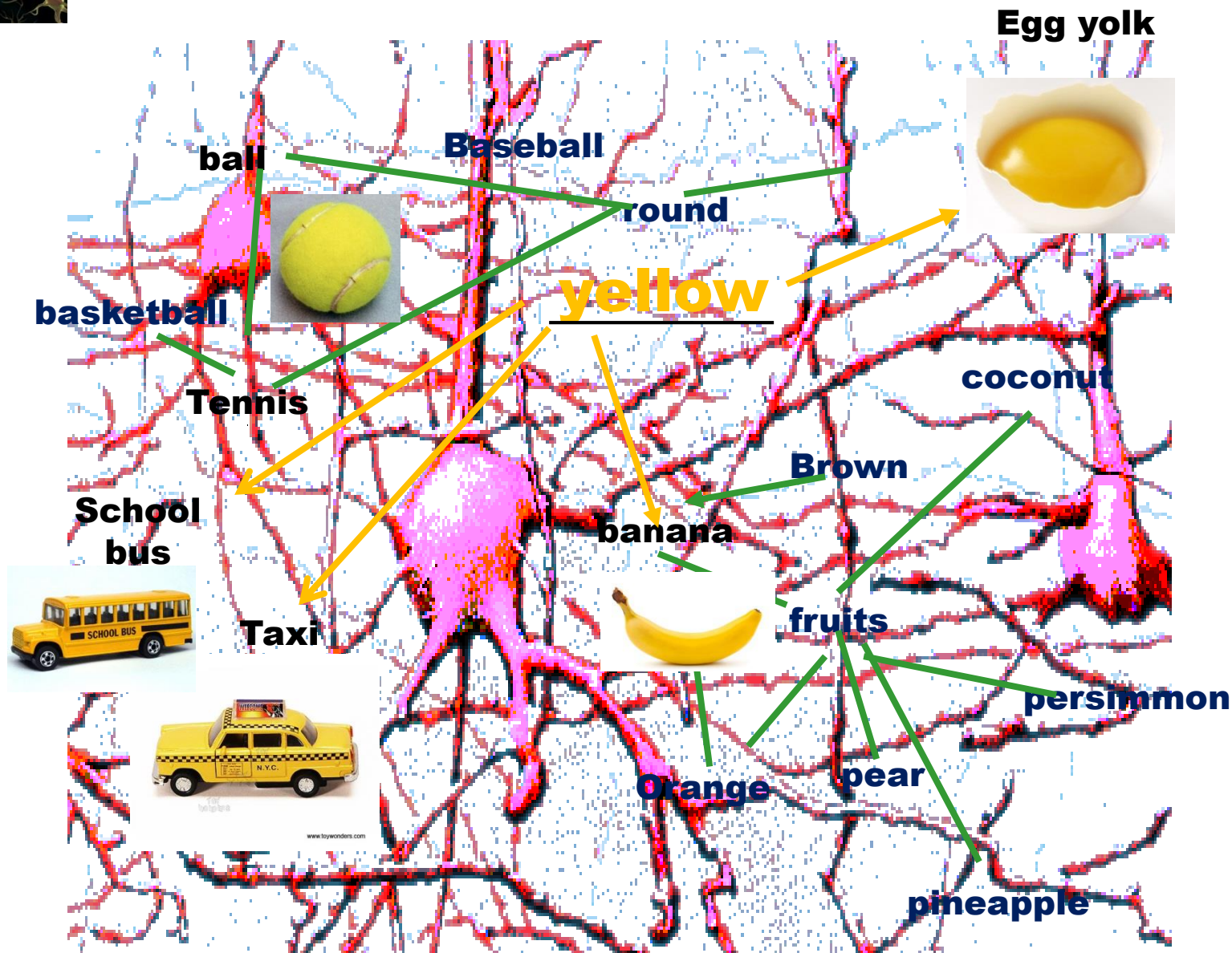


**Experience** → builds the representative network





# Distributed Networks: Making Connections



The “Use it or lose it” principle.



# Developing Early Literacy through Active Learning

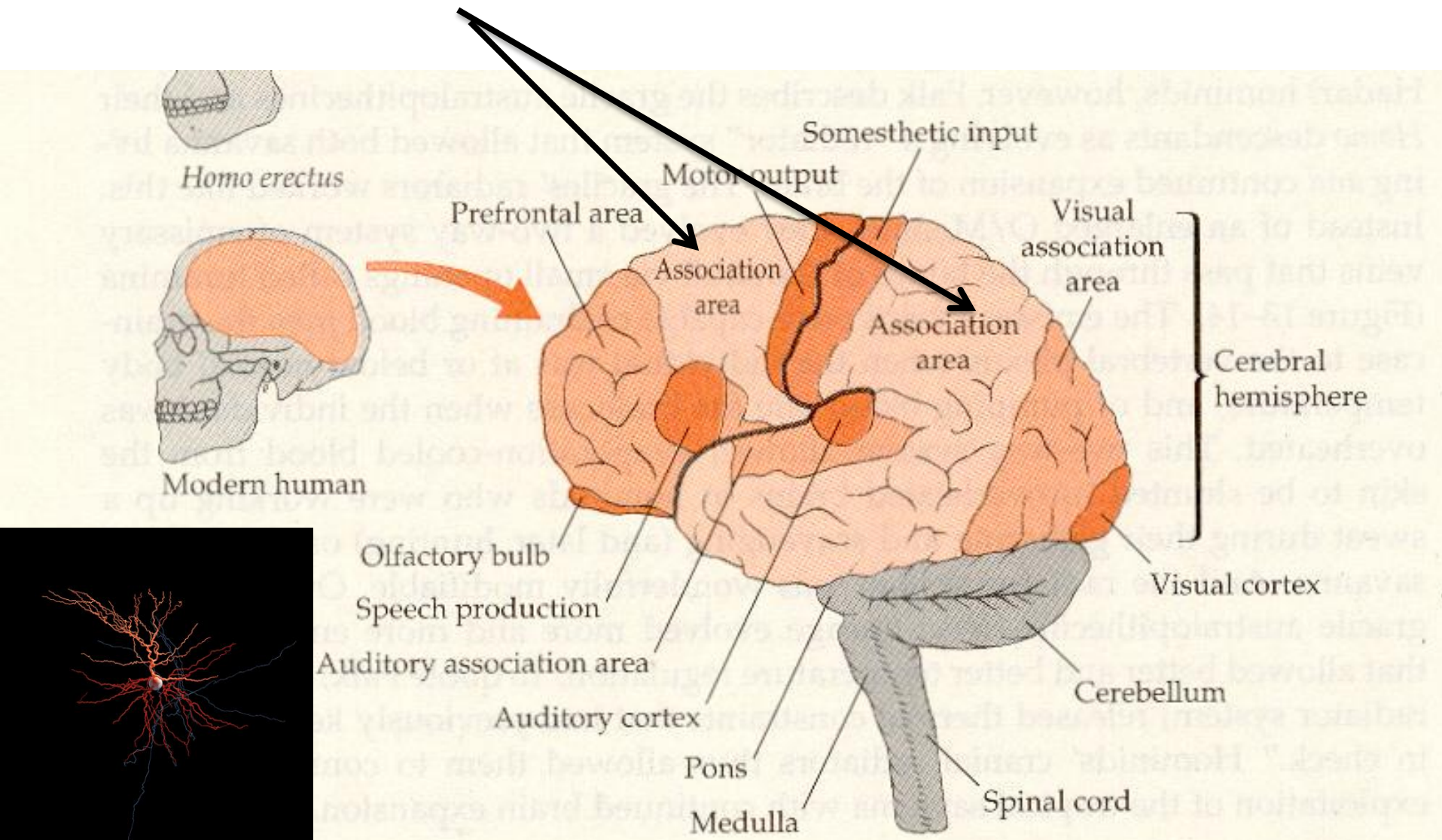
**Schema theory:** “mental file folders” of categorical information (animals, furniture, needles, etc.) → inside each folder → categorical contents (similar to “slips of paper”) – a.k.a. **semantic features** (anything that would/should fall into the category.)

Adding *new information* or “*knowledge*” = adding more “slips of paper” into that **flexible schema folder** → “**slot filling,**” which is how vocab. dev./cognitive growth occur.

Connect the **new word** with a *term/word/concept* that the student already knows by “*labeling*” the new information (“Instead of the word **rain,** we will now try to use the word **precipitation**) -- **AL**



# The **Association Cortices** Make up 37% of the Human Cerebral Cortex



# ST<sup>2</sup>REAM



Science

Technology (and **Thematic** trans-disciplinary instruction to extend student learning)

**Reading** and Language Arts

Engineering (“**Design** and Engineering”)

**Art** ←

Mathematics

(Maximizing connections and sensory experiences)



## Standards from Which Discipline: **Math** or **Science**?

1. Asking questions and defining problems (**NGSS**)
2. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information (**NGSS**)
3. Look for and make use of structure (**M**)
4. Planning and carrying out investigations (**NGSS**)
5. Attend to precision (**M**)
6. Analyzing and interpreting data (**NGSS**)
7. Model with mathematics (**M**)
8. Using mathematics and computational thinking (**NGSS**)
9. Constructing explanations and designing solutions (**NGSS**)
10. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them (**M**)
11. Reason abstractly and quantitatively (**M**)
12. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.  
(**M**)
13. Developing and using models (**NGSS**)
14. Engaging in argument from evidence (**NGSS**)
15. Use appropriate tools strategically (**M**)
16. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning (**M**)


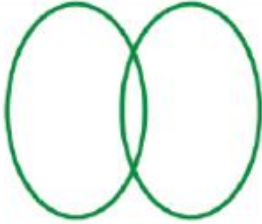



# Practices in Mathematics, Science, and English Language Arts\*

Math	Science	English Language Arts
<b>M1.</b> Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.	<b>S1.</b> Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering).	<b>E1.</b> They demonstrate independence.
<b>M2.</b> Reason abstractly and quantitatively.	<b>S2.</b> Developing and using models.	<b>E2.</b> They build strong content knowledge.
<b>M3.</b> Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.	<b>S3.</b> Planning and carrying out investigations.	<b>E3.</b> They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.
<b>M4.</b> Model with mathematics.	<b>S4.</b> Analyzing and interpreting data.	<b>E4.</b> They comprehend as well as critique.
<b>M5.</b> Use appropriate tools strategically.	<b>S5.</b> Using mathematics, information and computer technology, and computational thinking.	<b>E5.</b> They value evidence.
<b>M6.</b> Attend to precision.	<b>S6.</b> Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering).	<b>E6.</b> They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
<b>M7.</b> Look for and make use of structure.	<b>S7.</b> Engaging in argument from evidence.	<b>E7.</b> They come to understanding other perspectives and cultures.
<b>M8.</b> Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.	<b>S8.</b> Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.	

\* The Common Core English Language Arts uses the term “student capacities” rather than the term “practices” used in Common Core Mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards.

# Taught in the domain of Science or ELA?

## Text Structure Signal Questions & Signal Words

Cause and Effect	Compare and Contrast	Sequence	Problem and Solution	Description
				
Signal Words				
<p>So</p> <p>Because</p> <p>Since</p> <p>Therefore</p> <p>If...then</p> <p>This led to</p> <p>Reason why</p> <p>As a result</p> <p>May be due to</p> <p>Effect of</p> <p>Consequently</p> <p>For this reason</p>	<p>Same as</p> <p>Similar</p> <p>Alike</p> <p>As well as</p> <p>Not only...but also</p> <p>Both</p> <p>Instead of</p> <p>Either...or</p> <p>On the other hand</p> <p>Different from</p> <p>As opposed to</p>	<p>First</p> <p>Second</p> <p>Next</p> <p>Then</p> <p>Before</p> <p>After</p> <p>Finally</p> <p>Following</p> <p>Not long after</p> <p>Now</p> <p>Soon</p>	<p>Question is...</p> <p>Dilemma is...</p> <p>The puzzle is...</p> <p>To solve this...</p> <p>One answer is...</p> <p>One reason for the problem is...</p>	<p>For instance</p> <p>Such as...</p> <p>To begin with</p> <p>An example</p> <p>To illustrate</p> <p>Characteristics</p> <p>*Look for the topic word (or a synonym or pronoun) to be repeated</p>



# Similar Concepts, Discipline-specific Terminology

Reading	Mathematics	Science
<i>Listening, speaking, reading/researching, writing</i>	<i>Listening, speaking, reading, writing</i>	<i>Listening, speaking, reading/researching, writing</i>
Predict	Estimate	Hypothesize, predict
Identify	Find the...	Observe, investigate
Compare and contrast	Difference, sorting, quantifying	Classify → sense-making
Sequence (chronology)	Order and magnitude	Organize and categorize
What is the main idea?	Solve for...	What is the key concept?
List the...	Chart/graph the	Record and interpret the data
Summarize the	What is the...?	What conclusion can you draw?
List your reasons for	Show your work	What evidence supports your claim?
Cause and effect	Ratios and relationships	Cause and effect, cycles, systems
Sense-making, reasoning	Number sense	Claims and evidence, reasoning
Argumentation	Proofs	Arguments and evidence
Questions	Problems	Investigations (and Inquiry)
Proposition-answer	Problem-solution	Question-experiment
Descriptive skills dev.	Quantitative skills dev.	Thinking skills dev.; applications
Content focus	Focus on Problem-solving	Focus on answering questions
Words for expression	Words, numbers, symbolic Expressions	Written, visual, numerical, symbolic Expression and applications
Critical thinking	Quantitative and logical thinking	Creative thinking





# Commonalities in CCSS & NGSS

## ELA Features

- Reading for **Literature** (10 standards)
- **Reading** for **Informational Text** (10 standards)
- Foundation (4 standards – K-5 only)
- **Writing** (10 standards)
- **Language** (6 standards)
- **Speaking and Listening** (6 standards)

**Balance** between **informational text** and literature

**Writing in response** to texts (events, experiences, etc.)

Conducting and reporting on **research**

**Cross-content literacy** (transdisciplinary)



# Pheno-BL

**Common Core (E/LA and Math), ELD, STEM,  
and the new Science Standards (NGSS):**

**Standards correlations → overlapping**

- **standards**
- **content**
- **concepts**
- **student learning objectives**
- **language goals and vocabulary**



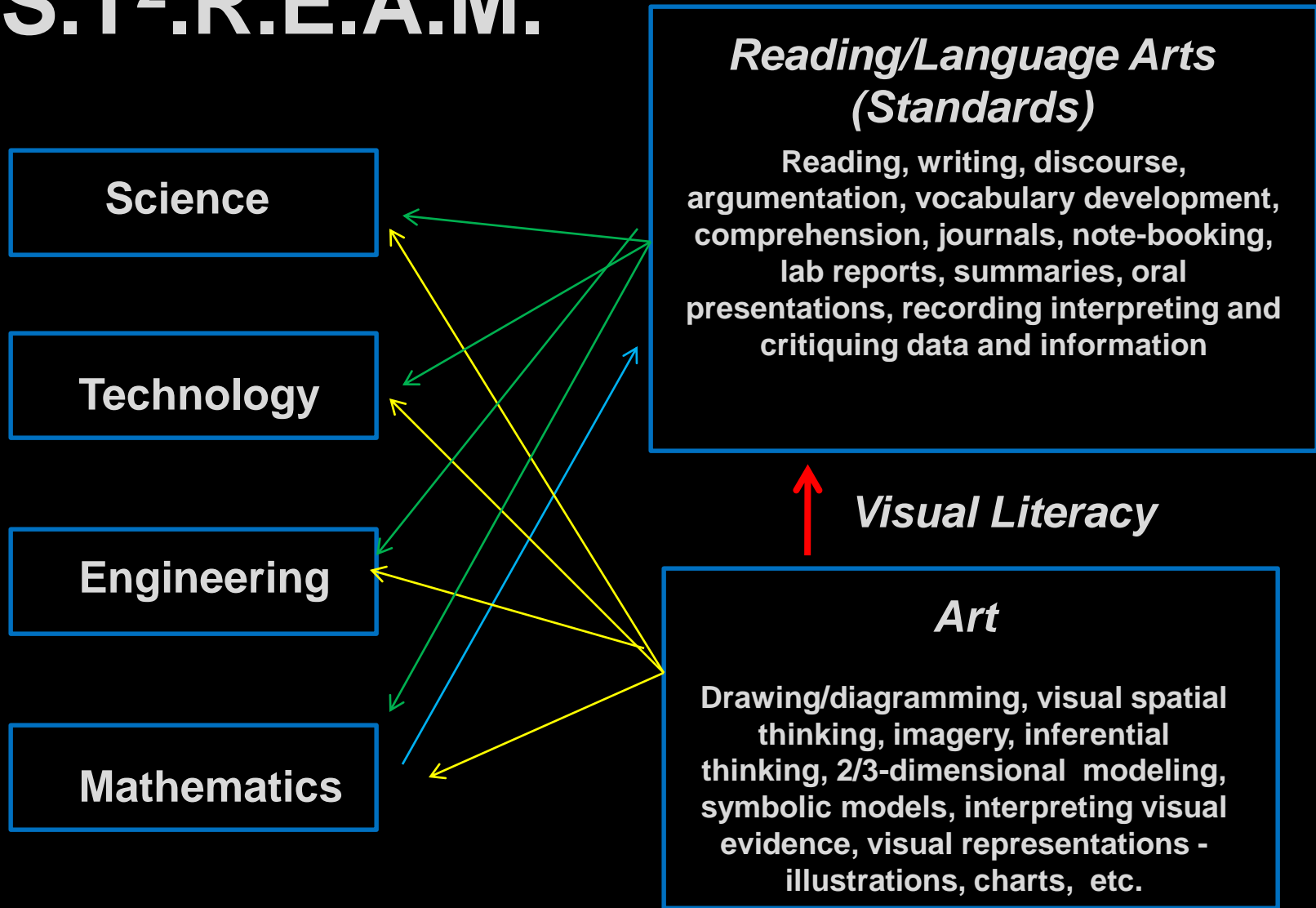
One of the great ironies of formal education is that **we expect students** to put the various **pieces** of the curriculum **together** into something we call **real-world knowledge** that can be **applied** after they graduate, although we make no claim that we ever showed them **how** during the first thirteen years.

You will be planning, designing, and making each of the objects, structures or products listed below. Which of them require the skills that are developed in the STEM/STREAM subjects?

Object	Science	Technology	Reading (ELA)	Engineering	Art/ Design	Math
Running shoes	•	•	•	•	•	•
Skateboard park	•	•	•	•	•	•
Non-tipping Kayak	•	•	•	•	•	•
Backpack	•	•	•	•	•	•
New i-Pod	•	•	•	•	•	
Amusement park	•	•	•	•	•	•
Amusement park rides	•	•	•	•	•	•
Racing bike	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sunglasses	•	•	•	•	•	•
Electronic game	•	•	•	•	•	•



# S.T<sup>2</sup>.R.E.A.M.



Convergent/Integrative STEM T' & L'



# S.T<sup>2</sup>.R.E.A.M.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER

THE LAST DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR I ALWAYS HAVE MIXED FEELINGS. I'M EXCITED ABOUT SUMMER STARTING, BUT IT'S ALSO REPORT CARD DAY.



SCHOOL IS MOSTLY TRUE-FALSE AND MULTIPLE CHOICE...



E-mail: BobThaves@aol.com www.comics.com



SCHOOL

THE PROBLEM IS, NOTHING IN SCHOOL IS LIKE IT IS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



...BUT REAL LIFE IS ALL ESSAY QUESTIONS.



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# Schools vs. the Real-world

(“Interdisciplinarity is like real life”)

“...**school learning** is abstract, theoretical and organized by disciplines, while **work in the real world** is **concrete**, specific to the task, and **organized by problems/projects...**” ***not by disciplines.***

-- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

“Learning for Jobs” (2009)





# ICLE: Application Model

1. ~~Knowledge in one discipline~~
2. ~~Application within one discipline~~
3. ~~Application across disciplines~~
4. Application to real-world *predictable* situations
5. Application to real-world *unpredictable* and/or *creative* situations where the focus is on applications of knowledge (“improvisational intelligence”)

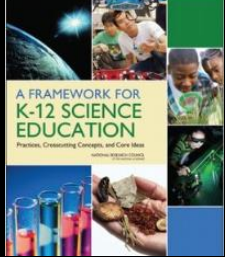
“Nothing is more dangerous than an idea,  
when it’s the **only one** your have.”





If they don't **learn** the way you **teach**, then

*why not **teach** the way **they learn**?*



# 20+ Years of Research in **Cognitive Science:** High Impact Learning Strategies

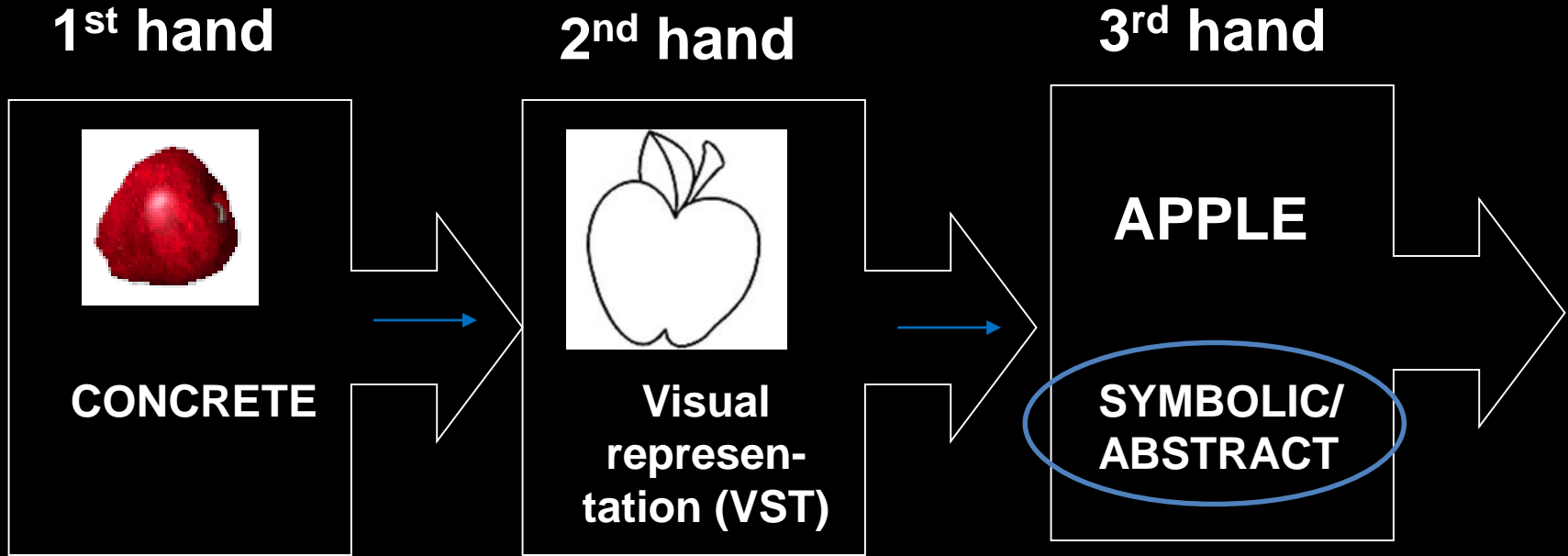
1. People learn and remember best through **real-world first-hand experiences**, not memorization.
2. Children are born **investigators**.
3. Understanding builds over time (knowledge is **cumulative** and occurs over **extended periods of time** – “distributed learning”)
4. We attempt to “**make sense**” of all incoming stimuli through the senses, visualization, and through formal **language** (AL).
5. Science and Engineering require both **content knowledge** *and* **knowledge of effective practices** (SEPs: **thinking, knowing** and doing - applications)



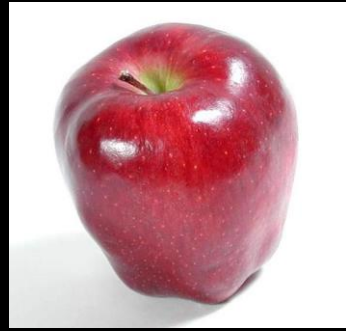
1. Engagement, *then*
2. Language development

The real cause of failure in formal education is essentially the fact that one begins with *language*, instead of beginning with *real and material action*. (Piaget, 1976)

The brain moves best from meaning-to-print, rather than from print-to-meaning



cognitive rehearsals →



The most difficult means by which the developing brain learns



# Phenomenon-based Science (Promotes Student Engagement)

“Student engagement” is predicated on the research indicating that learning is enhanced when students are **curious, involved,** and enthusiastically receive ongoing **feedback** from *the activity* itself (not the teacher).

SCIENTIFIC  
AMERICAN™

**Curiosity** Prepares the Brain for Better Learning: Neuroimaging reveals how the brain's reward and memory pathways prime inquiring minds for knowledge

Oct 2, 2014 · By Daisy Yuhag



Curiosity motivates us to find out more and helps our brains remember what we discover.  
Credit: *brian donovan flickr*

Do we live in a holographic universe? How green is your coffee? And could drinking too much water actually kill you?

Before you click those links you might consider how your knowledge-hungry brain is preparing



# Phenomenon: Disturbing the State of Equilibrium

Will pressing on the Unifix cubes in the cup disturb the state of equilibrium?

Will we get the same results if the cups are filled with *water* instead?



“a critical competitor”



# Can Oil become a cloak of invisibility?





# Investigations and Phenomenon-based Learning





## Writing Claims with Evidence and Reasons (CER)

**Phenomena-based Learning** : curiosity leads to thought-provoking questions → students *want to* know

1. *What* just happened? What do I know about it and what do I *not* know?
2. *How* did that occur?
3. *Why* did it produce that outcome?
4. Under what conditions would it occur again?



## Write Arguments with Evidence

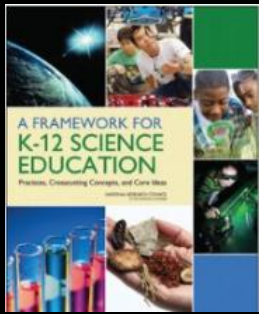
- My **argument** is that \_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_ .
- My **reasons** are that \_\_\_\_.
- The **evidence** to support my idea is \_\_\_\_\_
- My **claim** is \_\_\_\_. My evidence is \_\_\_\_ .
- An **argument against that idea** is \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_.
- I would **support that statement**, because \_\_\_\_\_
- That **reasoning sounds** correct to me, because...
- If someone doubted \_\_\_\_, I would **convince them by** \_\_\_\_.



**Phenomena-based Learning (cont.):** curiosity leads to thought-provoking questions → *want to* know

5. *How would I verbally explain* what just happened?
6. What would someone likely want to see in a *written explanation*?
7. Where/how can I *find out more* about what happened?
  - Phenomena provoke *wonder* → student learning
  - **Informational literacy** - library, Internet, journals, articles, interview a current/local expert in the field (website → contact them via email)
  - **Visual literacy** - explanatory YouTube videos, demos

# Deep and Long-lasting Learning: Understanding Builds Over Time



What? **Information-based** (1956 >) *to*

Why does...? **Inquiry-based** (1996 >) *to*

How? (2012 >) **Investigations**  
(knowledge and skills - **practices**)

Under what  
conditions?

What if...?



# Academic Language

We **make** observations, **explain** scientific events/phenomena by **describing** those observations in **oral** or **written** forms. We **draw inferences** from our **observations**, as well as from the numerical **data** we collect and **organize**.



# Emotions, Attention and the Brain

- Emotions → attention → learning → memory (integrated in the brain)
- It is **neurologically impossible** to learn and remember information to which the brain has **not** paid **attention**.

**Illocutionary intent** - what a speaker means to say, although the sentence itself may not be perfectly consistent with the intentions: “The garbage is beginning to smell,” which means, “Take that garbage out!” – **Close attention** to the **words** does not aid in understanding the intended message.



# Academic Language Learning

So that **students understand the learning goals**, state *explicitly* what the language objective/science content goals are at the beginning of class.

“Today we will engage in an **experiment** where we will investigate **air resistance** by **constructing *twirly birds*** (a.k.a., paper helicopters.)”

- Who has *seen* a helicopter in flight?
- In what directions did that helicopter fly?
- What is different about how a helicopter flies and how an airplane flies? (“**critical competitor**”)



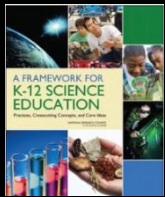
## Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird

**CCSS** *Writing standards K-5:*

**“Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigations of different aspects of a topic.”**







# Deep and Long-lasting Learning

**1. Instructivism** = teacher tells and student listens (the *transmission of knowledge* that gets memorized in isolation).

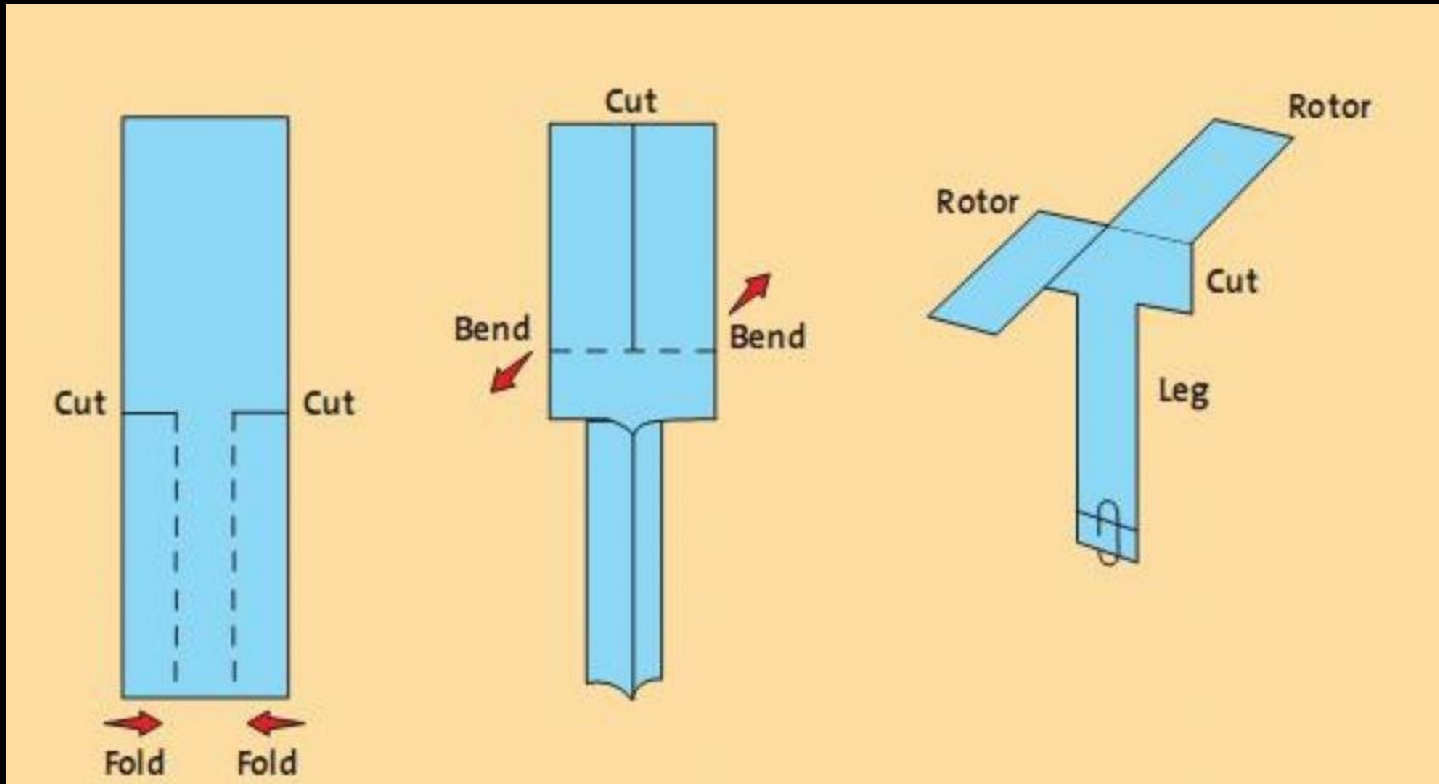
**2. Constructivism** (Piaget) = the **student learns by “constructing knowledge”** - making **connections**, inside the body-brain → building/constructing new brain circuitry.

# Connected Learning Experiences

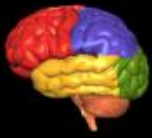
**3. Constructionism** (Papert): learning comes by way of **actively constructing knowledge** through the act of **constructing a meaningful product**. Doing/making a **tangible and shareable artifact** (public) following a deep **investigation** that unfolds **over multiple days**.



# Constructionism (Papert):



Once this object is properly folded, **predict** what will occur when you hold it as high as you can and **release** it?



## Question:

How do you **teach vocabulary** best?

Answer: In context

Full answer: In *the* context **of doing**  
(not in the context of **reading**) and  
through **speaking and writing.**

*“Predict”*



# STEM Vocabulary

## Instead of saying:

“What do you think will happen when...?”

“Let’s look at these two pictures.”

“How can you put those into groups?”

“Let’s work this problem.”

“What do you think would have happened if...?”

“What did you think of this story?”

“How can you explain.....?”

“How do you know that’s true?”

“How else could you use this.....?”

## Use MINDFUL LANGUAGE by saying:

“What do you **PREDICT** will happen when...?”

“Let’s **COMPARE** these two pictures.”

“How can you **CLASSIFY**...?”

“Let’s **ANALYZE** this problem.”

“What do you **SPECULATE** would have happened if...?”

“What **CONCLUSIONS** can you draw about this story?”

“What **HYPOTHESES** do you have that might explain...?”

“What **EVIDENCE** do you have to support.....?”

“How could you **APPLY** this .....?”



## NGSS Highlights #1

Students need to learn *the language of science* as a **tool** to both **comprehend**, and **communicate** what they learn/know about science investigations, oral discussion, writing, visual, and their mathematical representations.



# Engineering Challenge: Build a Twirly-bird

- Creating **solutions to problems** (the work of **engineers** who “engage in a systematic practice of design to achieve solutions particular human problems” - *NRC, A Framework for K-12 Science Education, 2012, page 11*)
- Engineers approach a design problem by looking for a **solution**. The **success** of their solution(s) is determined by how satisfactorily it solves the identified problem (**criteria**).
- Solutions are *limited* by **constraints** (e.g., the available materials, time, budget/costs, tools, conditions, etc.,) and solutions do not occur via a “light bulb experience.” Instead, they require a deliberate, thoughtful, systematic design process.



# Engineering Challenge: Build a Twirly-bird

- 1. Criteria:** Can you construct a paper helicopter that can fly for 3 seconds?
- 2. Constraints:** (a) use only the materials provided, (b) you have minutes to construct and test your paper helicopter.

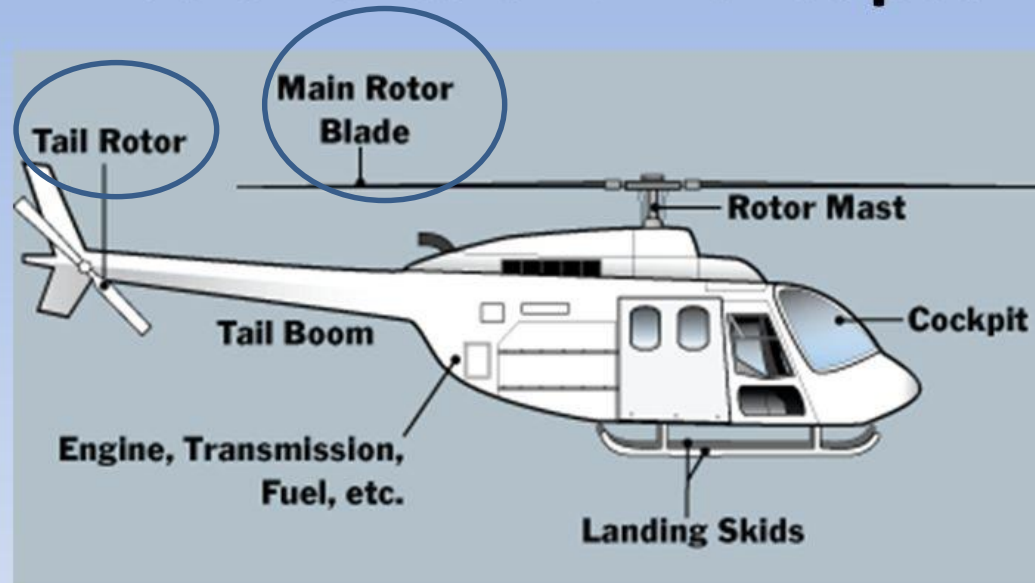
## Use the following items:

- Paper helicopter cut-out
- 2 paperclips
- Scissors
- stopwatch



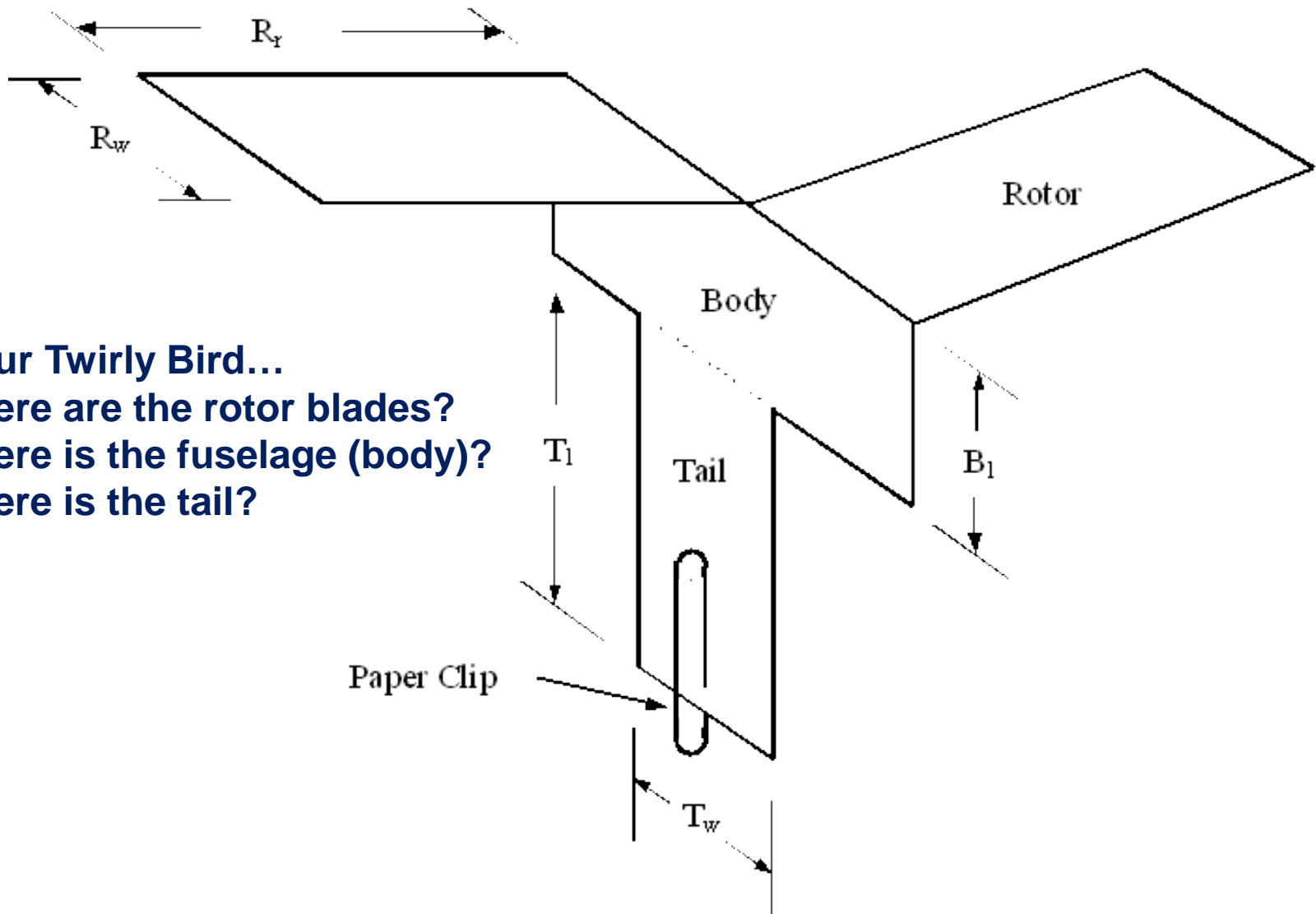
# Vocabulary in Science: Twirly Bird

## Basic Parts of a Helicopter



- **Fuselage** -- The main body of the helicopter is known as the fuselage. A frameless plastic canopy surrounds the pilot and connects in the rear to a flush-riveted aluminium frame.

**Why are these words important to student discourse?**



**On your Twirly Bird...**

- **Where are the rotor blades?**
- **Where is the fuselage (body)?**
- **Where is the tail?**

**Scale, proportion and ratios**

# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird



Observation: STEM practitioners ask questions and *pay attention* (Engineering):

1. In *what direction* did the propellers rotate, **clockwise** or **counter clockwise**? (compare the rotor blade patterns the **Blue** vs. the white helicopters?)
2. What **modification** could you make to your **helicopter** that would *cause* the **rotor blades** to **rotate** in the *opposite* direction (re-engineering)?



## “New and Improved” (vocabulary)

- “The adjacent possible” - advancements and improvements come by way of **tinkering** with the current technologies (and the resources immediately available) to make **gradual changes**, not quantum leaps that are several magnitudes “ahead of their time.” Innovative ideas are not conjured out of thin air – they are **extensions of the adjacent** “existing components” → into new combinations (“thinkable” extensions on what currently *is*.) Pathways to “the adjacent possible” → **Brain-storming dialogues, discourse and conversations** (infrequently in schools)





## Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird

3. How would you **change** the **outcome** if you added **a second paperclip**? Compare the systems with a one-variable change:

- (a) **one paperclip**
- (b) **2 paperclips**
- (c) **no paperclip** (tape).

How did changing this one variable effect outcome?

- a. Record your **results**.
- b. Share your group's **findings** with the class. (Describe the cause-and-effect relationships you observed?)
- c. What **forces** were at work when the helicopter was in motion?



# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird

- On a new piece of paper, design a second twirly bird, but **make one modification** to your new system. (or “*½ class – longer blades; ½ class shorter*” – **split-half method**)
  - a. In your science notebook, **describe** your **modification**.  
What *exact* change (measureable) will you make?  
How will that change the outcome?
  - b. What modification did you make? How did that change produce a new outcome? Compare the prediction.
  - c. What did you **discover** in the process?
  - (d. *How was the result different for longer vs. shorter rotary blades?*)

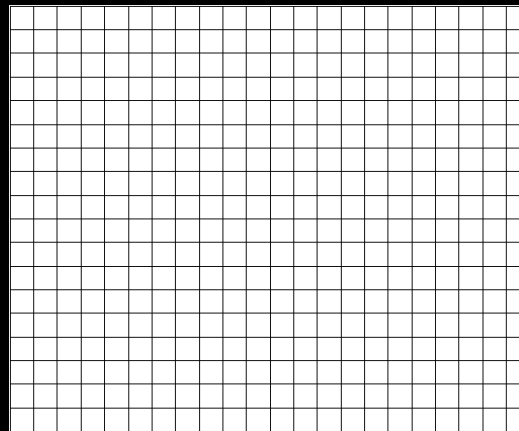


# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird

After your **formal investigation**, answer the following question:

- **Where** should you place the paperclip on the helicopter to best meet the criteria? Will you get better results if the paperclip is placed **vertically** or **horizontally** on the tail?

*Work with a partner,  
record your data*





## In-depth Investigations: Claims, Evidence and Reasoning (CCSS and Vocabulary Development)

What are *the parts* and the important *design characteristics* on a *Twirly Bird* that allow it meet the criteria?

The parts of my *Twirly Bird* include the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ is important because \_\_\_\_\_. Also, the \_\_\_\_\_ helps the system work by \_\_\_\_\_.

One problem we encountered was \_\_\_\_\_, but we solved it by \_\_\_\_\_. However, we could not solve the problem of \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_. In a future re-design, we could possibly \_\_\_\_\_ to correct this problem.





# Engineering Challenge: Twirly Bird

4. What are the **optimal dimensions** of a Twirly Bird?
5. Will a **larger** Twirly Bird fly **longer** than a **smaller** Twirly Bird released at the same distance from the ground? Why? Why not? Explain the **reasoning** behind your prediction. Investigate **your prediction** and record your results.
6. If two paperclips are placed on the tail instead of one, how will that modification change the results? Explain the reasoning behind your prediction. Test your prediction and record your results.

*Record your data and answer questions  
in full sentences.*

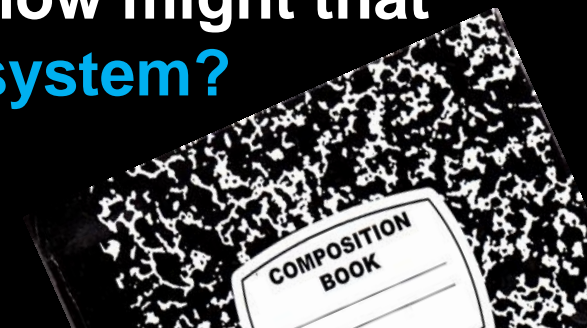




# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird



7. If you **extended** the **length** of the **rotary** blades 2 inches longer than the **standard** helicopter, can you **predict** how that might **affect** the outcome? If you **widened** each blade 1 inch, how would that change the motion of the twirly bird? (cause-and-effect)
8. How would you design a helicopter that will **descend (drag)** faster (with blades still **rotating**)?
9. What would occur if each blade was a **different length**?
10. If you had **“teardrop-shaped”** blades, how might that change the **outcome** of your flying **system**? (other shapes?)





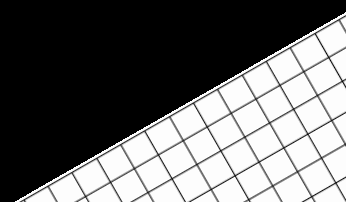
# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird



Variables (testable modifications)	Slower	Faster	A more vertical drop	Blades spin faster	Blades spin slower
2 paperclips					
3 paperclips					
4 paperclips					
1 inch wider					
2 inches wider					
1 inch longer					
2 inches longer					
3 inches longer					
4 inches longer					
New shape					
Other?					



1. A standard system
2. Multiple trials (3 times)
3. Share the outcomes







## **2-PS1-1.**

**Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.**

## **2-PS 1-2.**

**Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.**



## ***Writing standards K-5:***

**“Conduct short research projects that  
build knowledge through  
investigation of different aspects of a  
topic.”**



# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird



12. What other **materials** could we use to **construct** a similarly **designed** twirly bird that flies?

13. Is there a “maximum size” for a twirly bird? What factors could cause a limitation? (Recruit the custodian and his ladder.)



# Summary Science Sentence Stems

1. Our data indicate that ...
2. My hypothesis has been proven to be correct/incorrect because...
3. During our observations, we noticed that...
4. Based on our findings, we can conclude that ...
5. This is also an example of \_\_\_\_\_
6. From our additional research from the library/Internet, we found out that...
7. I would suggest an extension activity to investigate...

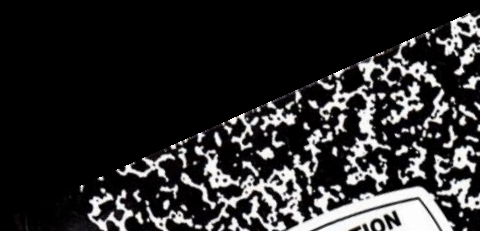




# Patterns of Motion: Twirly Bird



14. Why do scientists only change **one variable** at a time?
15. How many **variations** of the original Twirly bird design can you create that will still fly in a similar **manner**? How many different variables could we change? Is there an **optimal** size for Twirly birds?





# “The 30-Million Word Gap”

- Research shows that **vocabulary knowledge** is profoundly influenced by **SES**. By **age 4**, the average **accumulated experience** with **words** for children from...
  - ✓ professional families = approx. **45M** words
  - ✓ working-class families = **26M** words
  - ✓ welfare families = only **13M** words.

(Hart & Risley, 2003)
- Research from Keith Stanovich found that kids who have a **solid word base** get ahead **faster** and achieve **more** in school, while students with a less-developed vocabulary to **progress more slowly**. K students in **lowest 25%** for vocabulary development are **3 grades behind** by Gr. 6.
- State of **AZ**

# Developing Early Literacy through Active Learning

- Students most often learn **new words** through **rich conversations** (“**serve-and-receive**” not by listening).
- Students with **sparse language experiences** including **ELLs**, need to **actively engage** in **academic discussions** with peers and adults on a regular basis
- UCB’s Center for Research in Education, Diversity, and Excellence — CREDE): to **make connections**, learn **new concepts**, and learn the **appropriate words** to describe those concepts, students need to have an abundance of **“instructional conversations”** - academic discussions. **Interactive discussions** about **new words** and **attention-grabbing high-utility vocabulary** helps students expand their vocabulary “schemas” (Beck & McKeown).





# Academic Language in Science a Context

Introduce/reinforce vocabulary in an **active context**.  
 (“**Constructive expression**” not **phonics** → vocab. dev.)

- |                 |                          |                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Helicopter   | 17. Predict              | 34. Modification |
| 2. Experiment   | 18. Modify               | 35. Length       |
| 3. Observe      | 19. Re-engineering       | 36. Widen        |
| 4. Compare      | 20. Observation          | 37. Design       |
| 5. Propeller    | 21. Outcome              | 38. Materials    |
| 6. Gravity      | 22. Extend               | 39. Investigate  |
| 7. Rotate       | 23. Stationary           | 40. Twirl        |
| 8. Rotary blade | 24. Variable             | 41. Spin         |
| 9. Descend      | 25. Controlled variable  | 42. Findings     |
| 10. Drag        | 26. Manipulated variable | 43. Shaft        |
| 11. Model       | 27. Increase/decrease    | 44. Resistance   |
| 12. Engineering | 28. Clockwise/counter... | 45. Variation    |
| 13. Affect      | 29. Gravitational pull   | 46. Vertical     |
| 14. Motion      | 30. Mass                 | 47. Optimal      |
| 15. Friction    | 31. Forces               | 48. System       |
| 16. Standard    | 32. Interaction          | 49. Trials       |
|                 | 33. Cause-and-effect     | 50. Practices    |





# Vocabulary Development

4,000 – 8,000 words when entering elementary school

40,000 avg. when they exit high school

36,000 word difference

For 13 school grades (K-12) = 2,769 words/year

178 days for 2,769 = 16 words/school day

4K- 8,000 words when entering elementary school

87,000 exposed to/should have mastered upon exiting HS

79,000 word difference

For 13 school grades (K-12) = 6,076 words/year

178 days for 6,076 = 34 words/school day



# How We Learn/Understand Vocabulary: Connecting Words with Meaning

- Words are used to **think**. The more words we know, the finer our understanding of the world.  
-- Stahl, 1999
- Language is **recorded thought**.

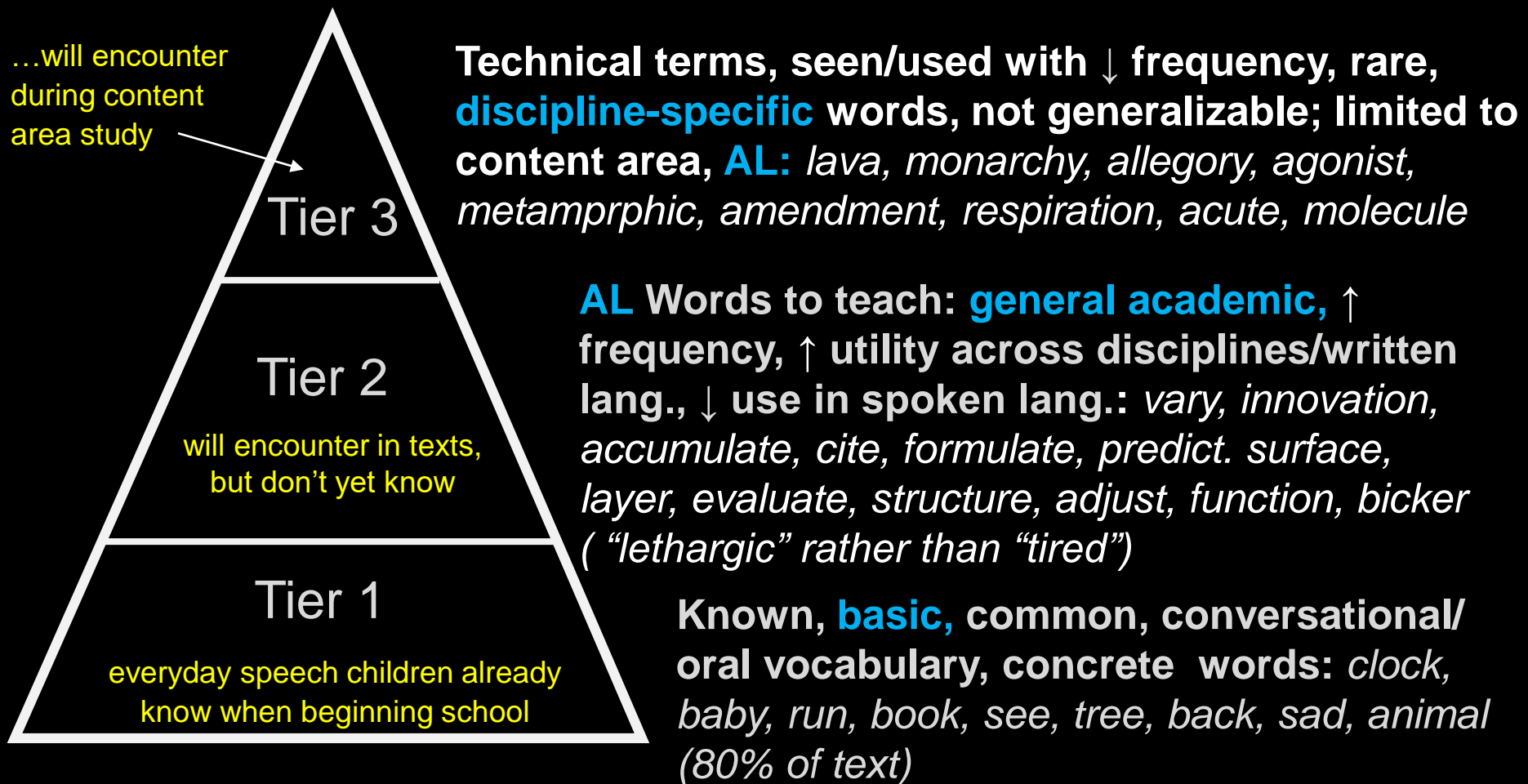
**Semantic dementia:** a neurodegenerative disorder → lose touch with the meaning of words. When they lose the word for a specific emotion, the patient can no longer recognize that emotion in other people.

Words are also used to **process** in-coming information, **to understand** and **evaluate other's ideas**, and **to understand** still *other* words.



# Three-Tier Model for Vocabulary

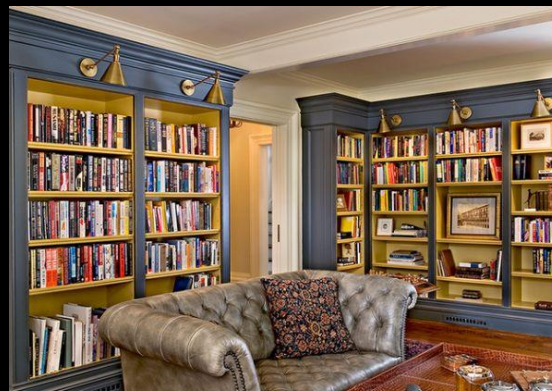
CCSS, Appendix A  
Originally Developed by Isabel Beck



# Developing Early Literacy through Active Learning

All children, and particularly children from **language-impooverished backgrounds**, benefit most from learning environments that are:

- **Experience-rich**
- **language-rich** (“serve and receive” verbal interactions -- primary caregiver feedback)
- **print-rich** (classrooms with word walls, writing samples, books of every genre, real-world objects, etc., and homes where parents/siblings *model* that *reading and dialogue* have tremendous power and value)



# 3-Dimensions of Learning Science



## ❖ Eight Practices

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

## ➤ Seven Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns
- Cause and effect
- Scale, proportion, and quantity
- Systems and system models
- Energy and matter: Flows, cycles, and conservation
- Structure and function
- Stability and change

## • Four Disciplinary Core Ideas:

- ✓ Life Science,
- ✓ Physical Science
- ✓ Earth and Space Science
- ✓ Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science



The best way to **predict** your  
future is to **invent** it.

– Alan Kay

How do we know that a classroom has **embraced and implemented** the STEAM recommendations?

- *What is the **teacher** doing differently?*
- *What are the **students** doing differently?*



## STEAM – STREAM Recommendations

“What formal education for one child for one year depends on what his/her teacher *believes, knows, and does* – and *doesn't believe, doesn't know, and doesn't do*”.

All professional progress will take place *outside of your comfort zone*.



# “Reflect and Connect”

“We don’t learn **from** experience, we learn by **reflecting** on it.”

-- John Dewey

- What was the **most valuable** idea(s) that *you learned* this afternoon?
- Write down two “I will...” statements.  
(How will you **use** this new information or knowledge?)