Learning Game Design With Gamestar Mechanic

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# Summary

Students will use the Gamestar Mechanic website to learn about game design by playing through a series of quests about game design, making their own games, posting their games for other Gamestar Mechanic players to play, and playing/reviewing the games of others. The quests are especially useful because they allow students to learn game design while playing through a dynamic storyline. This can be done in an unstructured way where the student can explore at their own pace or it can be done in a structure way by following a curriculum.

# Engineering Connection

In all the fields of engineering, design is important, a bad design will be at best unsuccessful and at worst dangerous. Bad game designs may not be dangerous, but a poorly designed game will not sell well. With Gamestar Mechanic, students will learn the importance of design, specifically game design.

# Grade Level

4-9

# Duration

No set duration, this is can be an open-ended lesson. The students can play through the quests, create games, and play and review the games of others for many hours. However, if you want the students to have more structured learning, you can use the Gamestar Mechanic Learning Guide, which has 1 hours 10 minute lessons.

# Cost Per Group

$0

# Materials List

* One computer with Internet access per student.
  + No software needs to be installed, but Flash is required

# Learning Objectives

* Work with a technology design
* Apply their understanding about science and technology
* Demonstrate abilities of a technological design
* Use troubleshooting as a problem-solving method used to identify the cause of a malfunction in a technological system.
* Use information provided in manuals, protocols, or by experienced people to see and understand how things work.

# Procedure

1. Sign up here <http://gamestarmechanic.com/teachers/get_started> for a free Gamestar Mechanic teacher account or have your teacher do it. The website will provide you with instructions on how your students can register for Gamestar Mechanic accounts.
2. You can have Gamestar Mechanic be a one-time event or do it regularly. The students can also go at their own pace, focusing on what is interesting to them or you can use the resources at <http://gamestarmechanic.com/teachers/resources> to give more structure to their learning.