

LEARNING MODULES

GK-12 DISSECT at New Mexico State University

Title: Web Ad Iteration

Author: Mandy Peel, Kathleen Guitar

Discipline or Area: Inventions and Advertising

Teacher: Kathleen Guitar

School: Vista Middle School

Subject of class: Science

Grade: 6th

COVERAGE OF COMPUTATIONAL TOPICS

The concept of iteration as repeating a sequence of steps was used to make an advertisement in Scratch for an invention the students made in previous weeks.

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how to write iterative structures in Scratch to advertise an invention.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Computers
Notebooks / paper

BACKGROUND AND REFERENCES

The purpose of this module is to get students comfortable with clarity, correctness, and efficiency of algorithms. They will learn what these terms mean and how to score algorithms in each. Next, they will practice writing clear, correct, and efficient algorithms multiple times, which will culminate in the weather tool algorithm.

PROCEDURE

Provide detailed instructions on how this module is taught.

For the first day, I presented different examples of web ads I made using Scratch. I showed them how I used iterative structures in three different ways to catch people's attention. Next, we had them write down the steps of one of the algorithms so they would have an example to base theirs on. Then, we let them start creating their Scratch ads.

On the second day, I reviewed different examples of web ads I made using Scratch. I reviewed how I used iterative structures in three different ways to catch people's attention. Then, we let them continue creating their Scratch ads.

On the third day, we let them finish their Scratch ads for their inventions using iteration. We took screen shots of their ads and they will glue them to the poster of the web pages they designed for their inventions.

What were the "learning goals?"

The learning goals are to learn how to write iterative structures in Scratch and learn hot to advertise in the form of a web ad.

How did you introduce CT?

Iteration was introduced as repeating a sequence of steps to reduce code and program writing time. The iteration was used in Scratch to catch viewers' eyes and pull them into looking at their advertisement for their inventions.

How could you assess the understanding of CT in this module?

CT assessment can be done by looking at the students' programs. If they function and use iteration correctly, then they understand the concept.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

What were challenges you encountered in the overall development of the module?

The biggest challenge was getting the computers set up. Another challenge was getting all the students to change the name of their projects. Even after four weeks, there were still untitled projects. I noticed that the projects were mostly either very good with iteration or very good with advertising; it was rare to find a project with both iteration and advertising.

What was successful?

There is significant improvement on the vocabulary words. The kids loved working with Scratch and some kids really got into it and understood iteration. The kids' projects that had both iteration and advertising were very impressive.

How was the students' reception to the content of the module?

The students love working with Scratch and I noticed that the kids who are usually not engaged are enthusiastic and working hard when using Scratch.

Example of what students wrote to base their iterative structures on:

Web Ad Iteration

- 1. Start When the sprite is clicked (Orange: Events)
- 2. Say something (dark purple: Looks)
- 3. Repeat (Yellow: Control)
 - a. Switch backdrop to: (dark purple: Looks)
 - b. Wait (yellow: control)
 - c. Switch backdrop to: (dark purple: looks)
 - d. Wait (yellow: Control)
- 4. Reset backdrop switch backdrop to: (dark purple: Looks)
- 5. Reset sprite move to x: y: (blue: Motion)
- 6. Stop all (yellow: Control)









