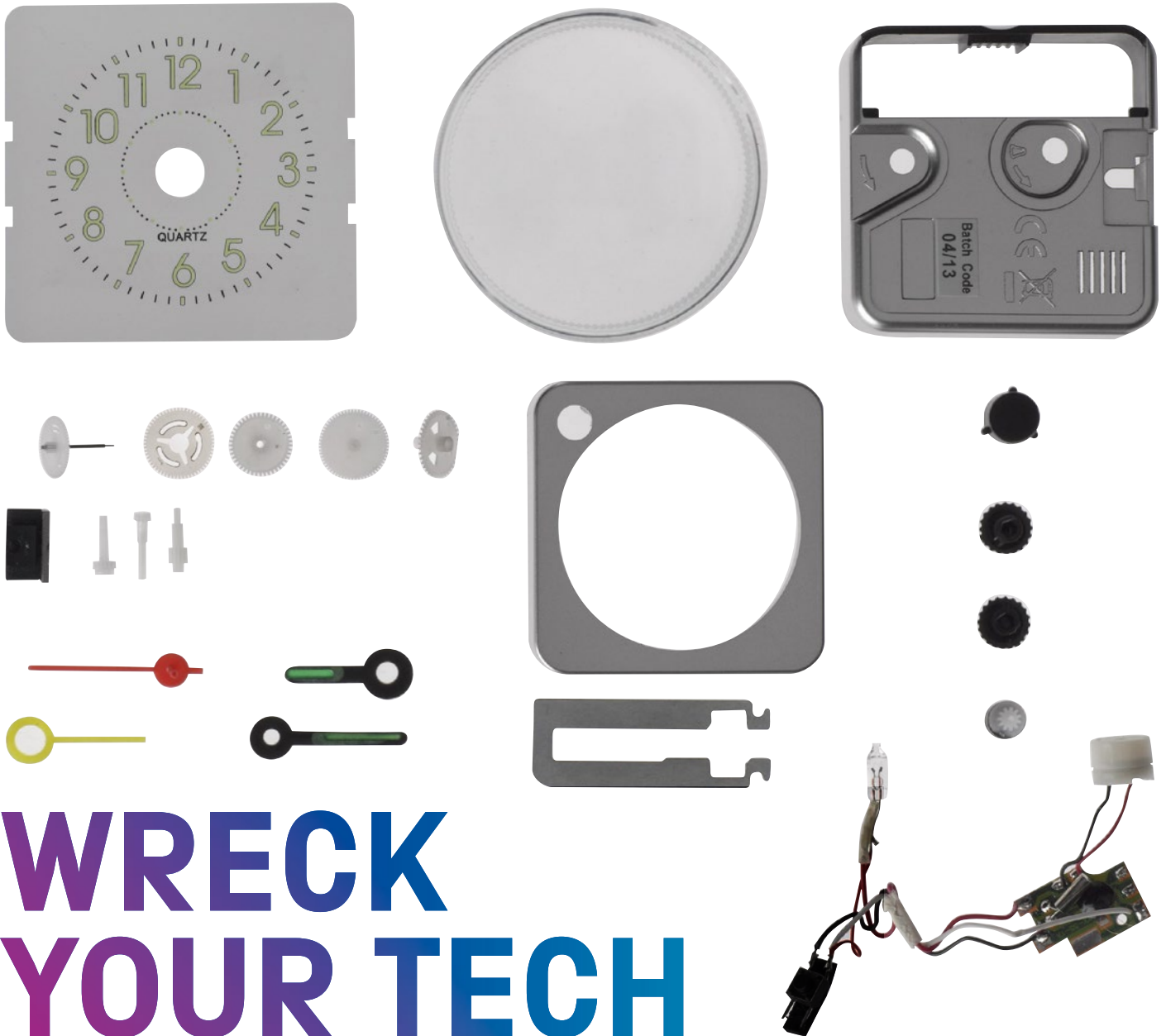




SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP



WRECK YOUR TECH

MAKING 	Age 11-14	Topic ENGINEERING	 30 MIN
	Skills used MAKING OBSERVATIONS • CURIOSITY		

Overview for adults

Taking apart gadgets such as a travel alarm clock, disposable camera, headphones, propelling pencil or a TV remote control is a great way to explore beneath the surface of objects, to find out and question how something works or how it was made.*

What's the science?

Inside every gadget you use every day you will find many different parts that have been designed and engineered with consideration for the properties of each material. Inside most electrical gadgets you will find a source of power, usually a battery or, if it runs on mains power, a power cord. Devices that plug into the mains may contain a transformer to convert the mains voltage (230 volts) into a lower voltage, often 12 volts. Most electrical gadgets contain a circuit board which fits different electronic components into a small amount of space to make it work – look out for microchips, resistors, capacitors, switches and LED lights.

Science in your world

All the gadgets we use in our everyday lives rely on scientific principles that have been discovered by scientists. But it is engineers and designers who develop new products; they need to have a working knowledge of those scientific principles, so that the products do the jobs they are supposed to do reliably.

Did you know...?

In a basic everyday toaster you will find 400 individual parts made from over 100 different materials.

***NOTE: Never do this activity with an item that is still plugged into the mains. If you are running this activity with younger children, please supervise them as some items will contain small parts or sharp points.**

You will need...



An old broken clock



An old pen



A screwdriver

Any old broken technology
you can get your hands on



An old remote control

Never do this activity with an item that is still plugged into the mains. Please ask permission from an adult before taking anything apart and be very careful – the items you choose could contain small parts or sharp things.

Top tip: The items we have chosen are just suggestions; you can try this activity with other things around your home.

Think and talk about...

- Did you find anything surprising?
- Do your objects have more or fewer parts than you expected?
- Can you work out what the different parts are there for?

Investigate...

- Are the objects easy to put back together?
- Can you make a display or art piece using all the components?
- Can you group the components together in different ways, such as by material or shape?

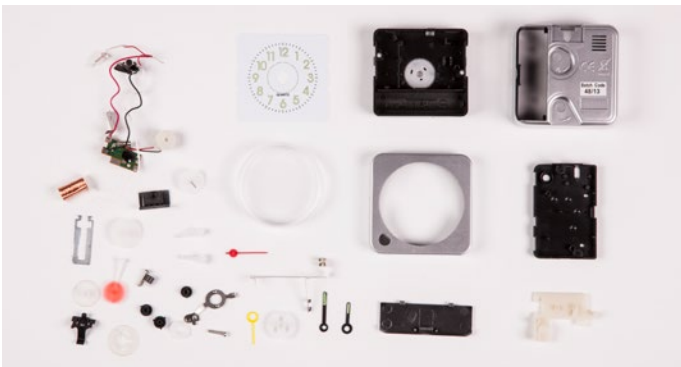
Follow these steps...



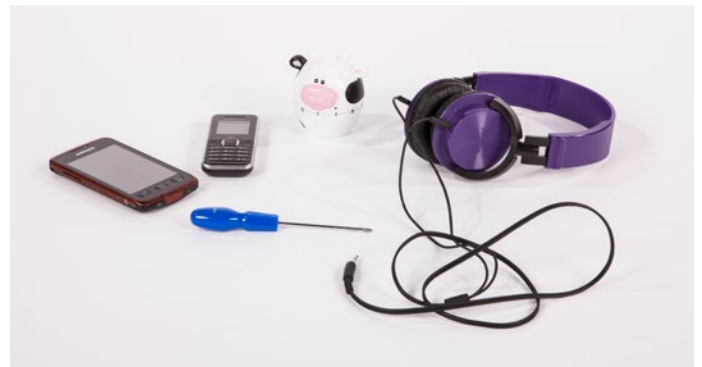
- 1** Take apart some everyday objects and investigate what's inside them. Start with a pen.



- 2** Next try something electronic such as an old remote control.



- 3** Investigate the inner workings of an alarm clock.



- 4** Experiment with taking apart other old or broken household items as well, and see if anything surprises you!

Science in your world

Whenever you do things such as fixing a broken pen or mending your bike, you are thinking and working in the same way an engineer does. Engineers use creative problem-solving skills to make things work and make them work better. They are constantly asking questions, investigating scientific principles and trying out new ideas.

