ASET Science & Engineering Practice (SEP) Tool: Developing & Using Models

Name or ID:
Lesson/Unit Title: Intended Grade:

Directions for use

Indicate if a component is present using Y (yes) or N (no) and then, if it is present, fill in the right 2 columns.
A single lesson will most likely not address each of the components below.
The numbering of these components is not meant to indicate they should be used in sequence, they are simply for reference.

SEP 2	**Developing and Using Models:** A practice of both science and engineering is to use and construct models as helpful tools for representing ideas and explanations. These tools include diagrams, drawings, physical replicas, mathematical representations, analogies, and computer simulations. Modeling tools are used to develop questions, predictions and explanations; analyze and identify flaws in systems; and communicate ideas. Models are used to build and revise scientific explanations and proposed engineering systems. Measurements and observations are used to revise models and designs.

Components of SEP: In this lesson/unit plan, it is clear that students have a structured opportunity to:	Present? **Y/N**	**What teacher actions were taken to facilitate this component for students?**	**What are the students doing? What sensemaking or intellectual work are students doing?**
1) **Describe** components and characteristics of models			
2) **Develop** models consistent with prior evidence or theories to represent, explain, and/or describe a phenomenon			
3) **Use** models to describe relationships between components, predict outcomes, and/or test ideas to explain a phenomenon			
4) **Compare** and/or **evaluate** features and limitations of (a) model(s)			
5) **Revise** models based on additional evidence*			

 Project Next Gen ASET was supported by a grant to the California State University East Bay by the National Science Foundation Discovery Research K12, Award No.DRL-1418440.
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ASET Grade Band Criteria (Grade Band: 6-8)

Science & Engineering Practices	
SEP 2: Developing and Using Models: Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.	
By the end of the grade band **students** will have had a structured opportunity to develop an understanding of each of these. Individual lessons or units should include opportunities for **students** to practice one or more of the following components ……	
1) **Describe** components and characteristics of models	Using a model they developed, or an existing model, students: a. **specify/identify** observable and unobservable elements of the model (and their attributes) **needed to explain** the phenomenon or communicate the desired information b. **describe** the key relationships or interactions among model elements as they relate to the phenomenon or aspect of the phenomenon being addressed c. **describe** the correspondence between specific model elements and relationships, and the relevant components of the real world object or phenomenon that they represent
2) **Develop** models consistent with prior evidence or theories to represent, explain, and/or describe a phenomenon	Students develop models that: a. are **consistent with prior evidence and scientific theories** about the phenomenon b. reasonably represent, explain, and/or describe both literal and unobservable features of scientific phenomena c. include only components and relationships that are relevant to the purpose of the model Using these models students: a. define and clearly **label all of the essential variables** or factors (components) within the system being modeled, including uncertain and less-predictable variables b. describe/demonstrate the **relationships** among the components of the model, including relationships that are not directly observable, but predict observable phenomena
3) **Use** models to describe relationships between components, predict outcomes, and/or test ideas to explain a phenomenon	Using a model they developed, or an existing model, students: a. Correctly and completely **describe the components** and mechanisms of a scientific phenomenon providing a causal account including mechanisms that are not directly observable b. Generate new knowledge including: i. Construct a correct and complete **prediction** about a phenomenon ii. Generate data to **test ideas** about phenomena iii. Generate **testable** questions about phenomena iv. Make meaningful **comparisons** between phenomena v. Support their **own thinking** about and understanding of a phenomenon vi. **Apply** models to related phenomena

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4) **Compare** and/or **evaluate** features and limitations of (a) model(s)	Using a model they developed, or an existing model, students: a. **Identify**, **describe, and evaluate** the appropriate boundaries and limitations of a model with respect to explaining the phenomenon or communicating the desired information b. **compare** and **evaluate** the ability of different models to accurately represent and account for patterns in phenomena, and to **predict** related phenomena.
5) **Revise** models based on additional evidence*	Using a model they developed, or an existing model, students: a. **Modify** a model – based on evidence – to match what happens if a variable or component of a system is changed b. **Revise** a model **to increase its explanatory and predictive power**, taking into account additional evidence or aspects of a phenomenon.

* This component is not required in K-2 or 3-5 grade bands

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