



# A Deep Dive into APB Launch Learning



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# Learning Objectives

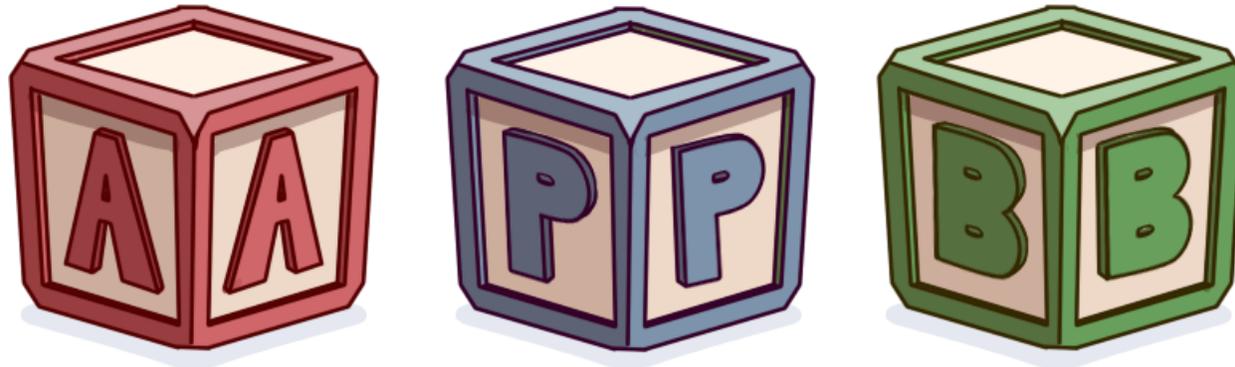
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- Develop a deeper conceptual understanding of the activity-, project-, problem- based (APB) instructional approach.
- Transfer knowledge and understanding of APB instructional design while mapping lesson components to the APB instructional design approach.



# How will we accomplish these goals?

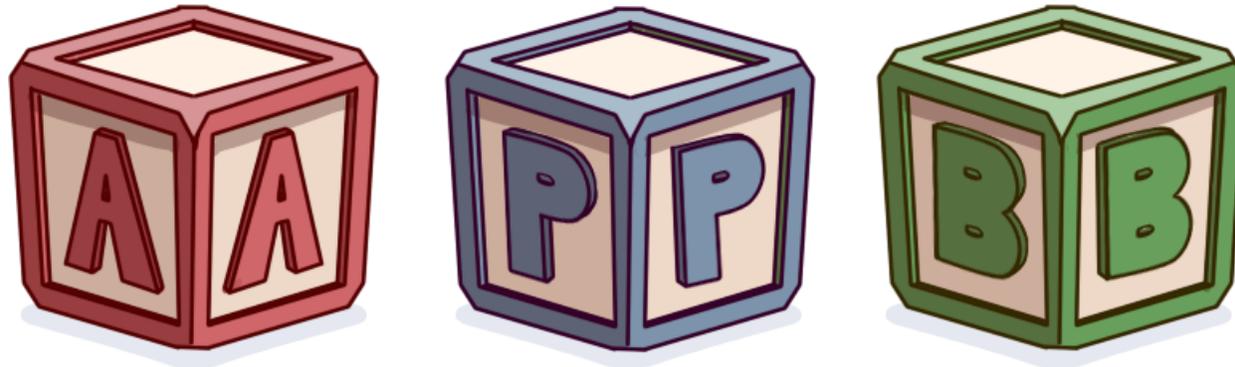
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- **Explore** the components of the APB approach and its research-based underpinnings
- In groups, **map** a module to the scaffolded APB instructional approach
- **Reflect** on the APB instructional approach as it applies to teaching relevant skills in your classroom

# What do you already know about APB?

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- Think about your previous knowledge and experience
- Formulate questions you want to address in this workshop
- Discuss previous knowledge

# APB Instructional Approach Video

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APB Instructional Approach



[http://lms-content.pltw.org/curriculum/APB\\_Instructional\\_Approach.mp4](http://lms-content.pltw.org/curriculum/APB_Instructional_Approach.mp4)

# Learning is scaffolded.

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# Activities are designed for knowledge and skill acquisition.

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- Activities set the stage for developing the content skills and understandings that will help students successfully navigate the design problem.
- While activities may be directed, they are still designed for hands-on, engaged student learning.

# Projects lead to meaning making.

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- Projects provide investigations into concepts or skills that will be applied in solving the design challenge for the module.
- Projects are designed for “helping students not only make meaning but also make meaning that lasts” (Krauss & Boss, 2013, p. 19).
- Application of learning “causes students to consolidate their understanding, making learning more memorable” (Krauss & Boss, p. 19).

# Problems are real world and relevant.

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- Problems are open-ended, with no clear or best solution intended.
- Problems are designed to provide a common challenge that will typically result in unique solutions that require the transfer of new and past knowledge and skills.

# APB Learning in PLTW Launch

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- How does PTLW Launch incorporate APB learning?
  - Three activities
    - Project
    - Problem
- What is the impact when APBs are “skipped”?

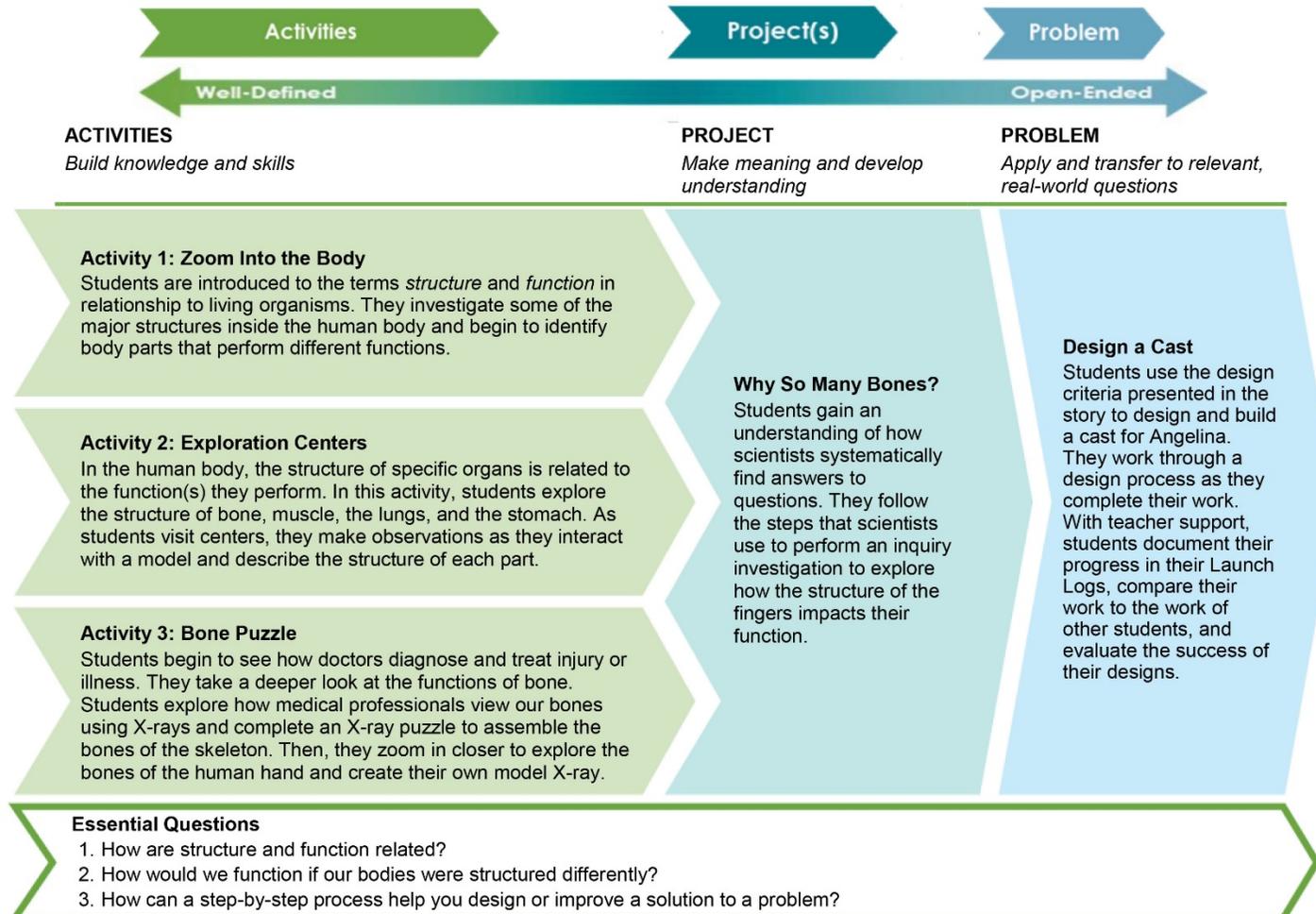


# Exploration of a PLTW Launch Module



## Structure and Function: Human Body

PLTW Launch



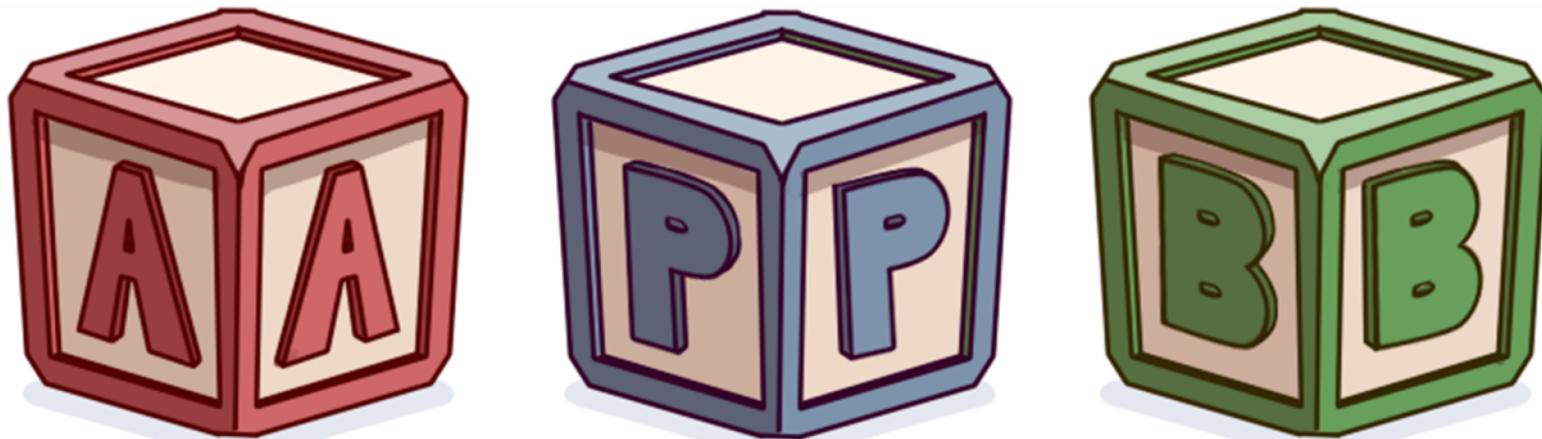
# Create a Visual Model of the APB Instructional Model.

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Design a graphic organizer – consider:

- Notion of scaffolding
- Activities = Knowledge and skills acquisition
- Projects = Meaning making and investigation
- Problem = Application and transfer
- APB learning progression

Well-defined → Ill-structured (open-ended)



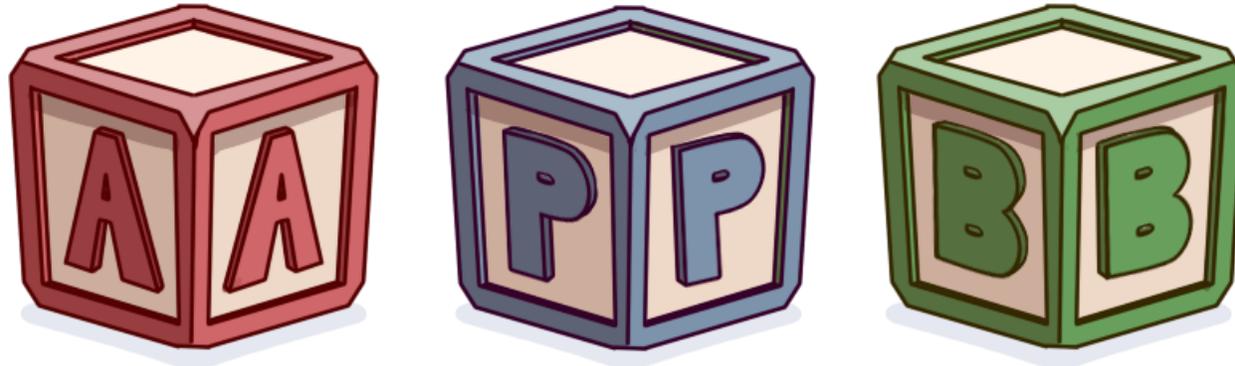
# How does the example map to the APB instructional model?

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- Identify skills that are developed in the **activities**.
  - In what ways do these skills provide a scaffold for student learning?
  - What additional skills do you foresee that students need to develop?
  - How can we ensure that students are progressing through the scaffolded learning experiences?
- In what ways does the **project** provide opportunities for making meaning?  
How are skills consolidated?
- How do you envision students applying and transferring their new and prior understanding to solve the open-ended **problem**?
- What might **formative assessment** look like throughout this APB example?
- What would you want to change/add/delete in this example of APB learning?  
How would your ideas create a **powerful learning experience** for students.

# Reflection on APB Learning

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- In what ways do you see the APB components in PLTW Launch modules impacting student learning?
- In what ways can you envision using this approach with non-PLTW learning experiences?
- In what ways can this learning experience impact instruction in your classroom?

# Questions

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# Contact Information

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## PLTW Solution Center

Our friendly PLTW Solution Center Team Members are here to answer all your questions.

For live, one-on-one support seven days a week, contact the PLTW Solution Center.

**Email:** [solutioncenter@pltw.org](mailto:solutioncenter@pltw.org)

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