CODING
FLOW CHARTS

CONCEPT Robots use programming code as their set of instructions to follow. This code is written out in easy to see programming steps called flow charts that allow programmers to work out the details before programming the robot. Flow charts are helpful spotting problems in code.

BACKGROUND

Flow charts have been in use since the 1920s when businesses began documenting their business practices using "Flow Process Charts." In flow charts, there is always a start and a finish with various steps in between. When the code is entered in the robot correctly, the robot will perform the steps in the same order as the code. Following the flow chart sequence of steps can give the programmer an idea if the code will work or not.

REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

Many times programmers will use this visual process to solve a problem with a code. The purpose of the flow chart is to communicate how a process works in an easy to follow set of steps. These steps are written inside geometric shapes, the oval shape is given to start/stop, the rectangle is a process step, a parallelogram means an input/output, and an arrow represents the flow of sequence.

SIMPLE COUNTDOWN FLOW CHART

COUNT ASSIGNED 5

INPUT/OUTPUT — DISPLAY: BLAST OFF IS SOON!

PROCESS STEP — DECREMENT COUNT

COUNT < 1

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