

# IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

**CONCEPT** Have you ever taken something apart to figure out how it was made? This is how reverse engineering works. When a part stops working, taking it apart to identify the problem is the best way to fix it. There could be other reasons to deconstruct.

## BACKGROUND

Buildings, bridges, software, planes, machines and lots of other items are sometimes deconstructed to obtain design information. By taking items apart and seeing how they were built, you can more easily envision how to fix it or make it better.



## REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

After companies go out of business, the products they sold are no longer supported. Other companies may not know how to repair the products. Many times they use reverse engineering by deconstructing them. Then they know how it was designed, what was broken and can be a substitute for another part to fix it.

