

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

## BACKGROUND

Buildings, bridges, software, planes, machines, and many other items can be deconstructed to obtain design information. Taking them apart and seeing how they are built makes it easier to envision how to fix or improve them.



## REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

After companies go out of business, the products they produce are no longer supported. Other companies may not know how to repair the products. They often use reverse engineering by deconstructing the product and learning how the product was designed and what was broken. From there, they can learn how to substitute other parts to repair the product.