

FIRST

Do you like building robots? How about combining that with leadership skills? Honing your group learning and troubleshooting skills? Interpersonal skills? People skills? Presentation skills? FIRST robotics competitions might be something for you!

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the not-for-profit public charity designs accessible, innovative programmes that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.

Go to: <http://www.usfirst.org/>

A) About FIRST

- 1 Read *FIRST's* vision and mission statements. What is the difference between a vision and a mission statement?
- 2 What does the acronym *FIRST* stand for?
- 3 In your own words, explain the terms *Gracious Professionalism* and *Coopertition*. The word *coopertition* is an example of what is called a *coinage*. What two words do you recognise in the coinage *coopertition*?
- 4 What were the main findings of the comparative study conducted by Brandeis University?
- 5 Under *FIRST At A Glance*, find and list 5 interesting facts about the robotics programmes and competitions pertaining to your grade band (i.e., 9 – 12). Account for your choices.
- 6 By looking at the poster designs and competition names under *FIRST History*, you can tell what many of the challenges must have involved. Name three US states that had national prize winners more than once.
- 7 List the *founding sponsors*. Which of these have you heard of before?
- 8 Describe the scholarship opportunities *FIRST* provides.

B) Robotics Programmes

- 1 Find the YouTube video that highlights the four different levels at which students can compete. What sets the most advanced competition (FRC) apart from FTC?
- 2 Robotics is often seen as an anti-social hobby for nerds. What does the video show you to disprove that perception?
- 3 Where and when are the national championships held?
- 4 What does it take to be(come) a mentor or coach? List the qualities/responsibilities.

C) Community

- 1 Under *What Events And Teams Are In My Area?* choose four different states (one in the north, one in the south, one in the east, one in the

west). Within the selected states, list the cities, schools, and team types that pop up on your screen.

- 2 Check out some of the websites that represent the teams on your list. Does your school offer similar opportunities? If not, would it be worth your while if your school did?