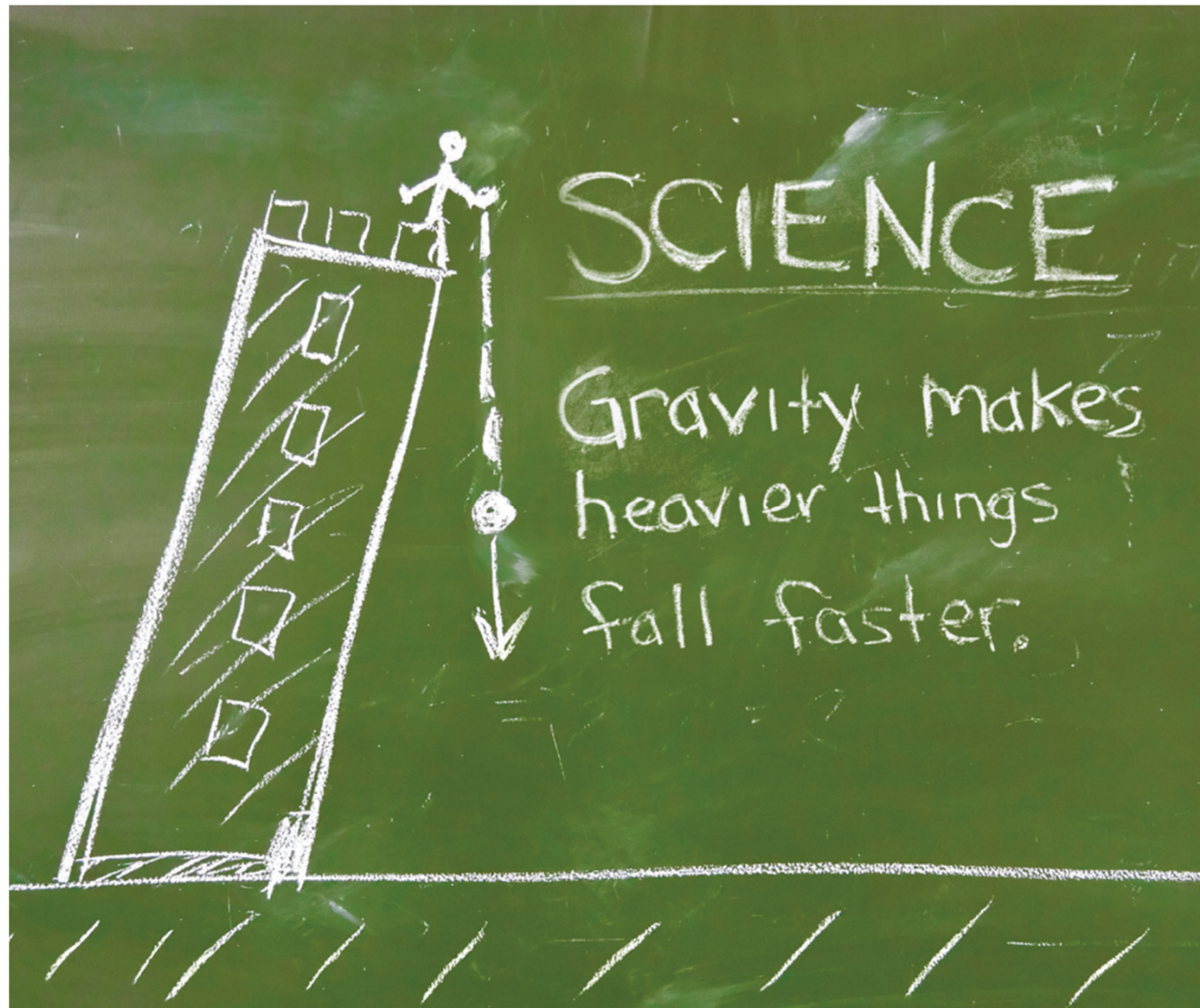


What Are We Doing When We Teach Computing in Schools?

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Research on the cognitive, educational, and policy dimensions of teaching computing is critical to achieving “computer literacy.”



Every Teacher Must Teach

We learn wrong things just as hard as we learn correct things.

Every Child Must Learn

It is important that everyone should be able to read and write

—and that if they cannot,

They are disempowered, unable to participate in society.

What is the Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA)?

b	c	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	m	n
bed	cat	dog	fish	goat	hat	jug	key	lion	man	nest
p	r	s	t	v	w	y	z	a	e	i
pet	rock	sun	table	voice	win	yet	zip	apple	engine	insect
o	u	æ	ee	ie	œ	ue	wh	ch	sh	th
hot	umbrella	angel	eel	ice	oat	uniform	wheel	chair	shoe	thumb
th	au	oi	ou	ŋ	s	ʒ	x	a	ω	ω
that	auto	oil	owl	ring	dogs	garage	bird	father	book	moon

Did it work?

Simplifying the Vocabulary: “Look and Say”

John, see the aeroplanes. One, two,
three aeroplanes. I can see three aeroplanes.

John said ‘See the aeroplane go
up. See the aeroplane fly. The aeroplane
can fly fast. Fly fast, big aeroplane

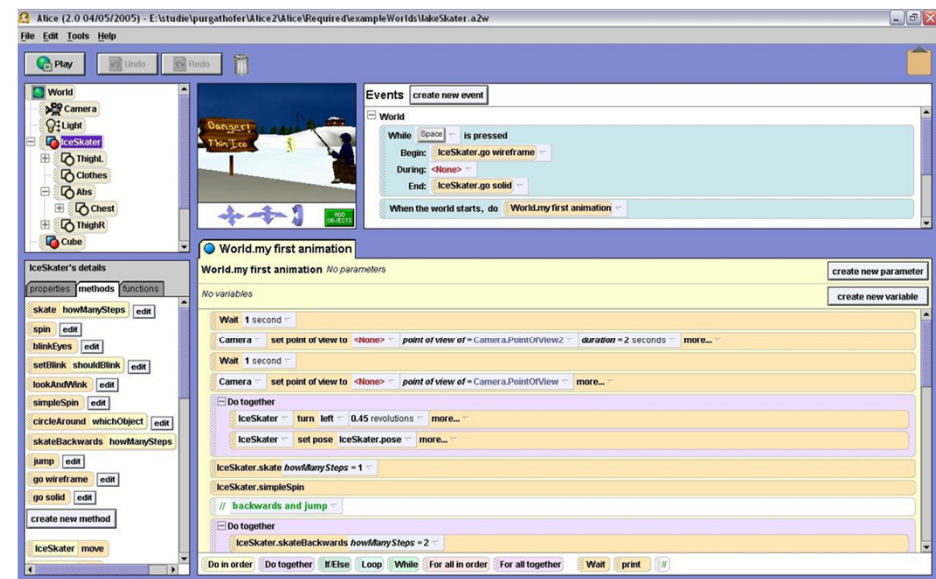
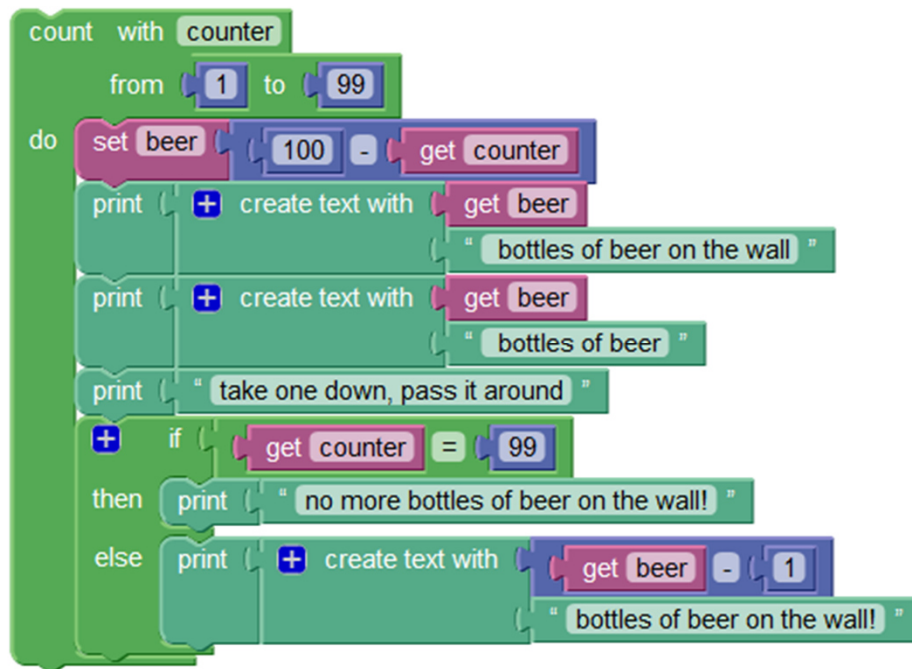
Did it work?

Computing in Schools

- in voluntary “after-school” clubs?
- or via subscription services like Bitsbox ?



Restricting the Syntax



Restricting the API

- Particular Problem Domain
- Event-Driven Enviroments , GreenFoot
- ScaffoldSystems , ProcessingJS

Problem!

We may be restricting things in the wrong way.

- Cognitive Research
- Educational Research
- Policy Research

We should learn from educational history, and—this time—do the research.