ROBOTICS WEB-QUEST

The links below will help you answer each question. Make a brief note of each answer so that you can take part in the discussion at the end of the lesson.

Choose one of these robots:

Robot glider: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/7234544.stm
Domestic robots: http://www.irobot.co.uk/home-robots/vacuum-cleaning
Tactical robots: http://www.irobot.co.uk/about-irobot/defense-and-security
Treebot: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3340057.stm
Mars rover: http://marsrovers.nasa.gov/mission/spacecraft_surface_rover.html
Caterpillar medical robot: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6569283.stm

1. What job does the robot do?
2. What can it sense (inputs)?
3. In what ways can it respond (outputs)?
4. In what ways is it better than a human?
5. Are there any reasons why a human might be better at this job?
6. Give two examples of the kinds of decisions the robot has to take.

Extension tasks

Why are Mr Alexis Johnson and Dr Klaus-Peter Zauner developing a 'swarm' of robots? http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/3348837/Small-cheap-swarming-robots-unveiled.html

Who is Helen Greiner? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Greiner