One of the most magnificent structures in the computer science world is the function. Functions (sometimes called procedures) are mini programs that you can use over and over inside of your bigger program.

A fantastic way to compare functions to something we see in our everyday lives is to look at songs. Songs often have certain groups of lyrics that repeat over and over. We call such a group a “chorus.”

Directions:

1) Divide into groups of 4, 5, or 6.
2) Give each group several copies of the Songwriting Worksheet.
3) Play a short song for the class that contains a clear chorus that does not change from verse to verse.
4) Challenge the class to identify (and write down) the chorus.
5) Compare results from each group. Did everyone get the same thing?

New Word!

Function

Say it with me: Func-shun

A piece of code that you can call over and over again.

Let’s make a function for the bits that we use most often so that we don’t need to write so much as we go.
Songwriting Worksheet Example
Using Lyrics to Explain Functions and Procedures

Song Name:

Chorus:

Unplugged

Group Name: ___________________________ Date: ____________

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