Websites and connections related to Technological Modelling

Future for All
http://www.futureforall.org

If you're looking for images of futuristic vehicles this would be a good site. Some of the links are in French though!
Suggestion would be to download images onto school computer and use them as a discussion starting point perhaps.

Bendy Straw
http://invention.smithsonian.org/centerpieces/sparklab/spark-inventors-friedman.html

Has 3 examples of inventors, 2 of which have the images / drawings of their inventions. Good discussion starting point and helps reinforce the idea of visually recording something to test / model an idea.
Also has an interesting workbook (downloadable as a pdf) that has some ideas in it that could be adapted to suit here.

Google Patents
http://www.google.com/patents
Has a broad range of interesting and weird patents for all sorts of things.
Lots of drawings, and the text is quite complex for reading. Discussion starter – what does the diagram tell us? If I was drawing my idea, what have I learnt from looking at these examples. What should I be doing with my drawings of the things I would like to make?
Look at :

Yo-yo
http://www.google.com/patents/about?id=uZUDAAAAEBAJ&dq=Yo-yo

Wooden Toy Train
http://www.google.com/patents/about?id=_lZjAAAAEBAJ&dq=Wooden+Toys
 Take Apart Toy
http://www.google.com/patents/about?id=UxY3AAAAEBAJ&dq=Wooden+Toys
Convertible Rocker Wheeler Toy
http://www.google.com/patents/about?id=qilJAAAAEBAJ&dq=Wooden+Toys

Gadget Nation

http://www.gadgetnation.net

Go the inventors blog and have a look at some of the shorter examples of inventions.

These could be developed into reading tasks with comprehension questions related to aspects of modelling, but also questions associated with reasons why people might have developed these products etc.

Technology Student

http://www.technologystudent.com/designpro/model1.htm

Really good explanation about why it might be important to make a model of something before you produce it. Also has a worksheet that could be modified to suit.

Top 10 Failed McDonalds Products

http://listverse.com/2009/05/30/top-10-failed-mcdonalds-products/

This is a bit of fun, but allows for questions about why these products could have flopped. What could McDonalds have done differently perhaps??

Bad Designs

http://www.baddesigns.com/examples.html

Really worthwhile exploring , see if your students can come up with their own solutions perhaps.

Cut and paste as a reading activity ??

Youtube

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOQdC05tI7o&feature=related

An interesting, 4min example of how modelling is used with BMW car development.

Biggest Product Flops of all Time

http://www.walletpop.com/specials/top-25-biggest-product-flops-of-all-time

A suggestion would be to have a look through some that you think might interest your students, use picture and text as a conversation starter – get students to record their ideas.