

## WHAT IS DESIGN THINKING & HOW DOES IT HELP KIDS

We've all done it. Have you ever sat down to consider what takes priority for a day's work? Rarely do we consider the steps that lead us to beginning and finishing a task or project.

Design Thinking is the name, or methodology, given to the steps we use everyday to plan and solve problems. While adults use these problem solving skills professionally, most kids and youth are still in the formative stages of this skill development.

The process of Design Thinking was brought to the mainstream by IDEO and Stanford's d.school (founded by David Kelley). It helps people think creatively to solve problems and be more imaginative for designing almost anything! We know kids are imaginative, but this process helps funnel that imagination to create a more fluid and concise product or outcome. This helps them be more efficient and the quality of their work (or thinking) improves.

The best part is this method has life long effects. The younger the child, the better! This Design Thinking method is their "thinking-toolkit". Kids can use it to solve almost any problem and is a fundamental piece of the learn by making or maker-centric pedagogy which is the foundation of Brilliant Labs teachings.

## GROW A GARDEN FROM YOUR GROCERIES

### DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

#### CALL TO MAKE

Imagine the distance your food travels to get to your fridge. Where do peppers and onions come from? Instead of throwing bits of your produce in the garbage, how might you be able to regrow them again?

#### EMPATHIZE

Have you ever felt hungry? Imagine if you could end hunger in your community. How could you help people afford fresh fruits and vegetables? Seeds can be expensive to purchase, how can you produce your own seeds from what you already have?

#### DEFINE

What fruits and vegetables can you regrow? What supplies do you need to regrow fruits and vegetables? Some seeds may need to be dried before planting in the soil. Which seeds will have to be dried and how do you dry them? How much space will you need for your starter plants?

#### IDEATE

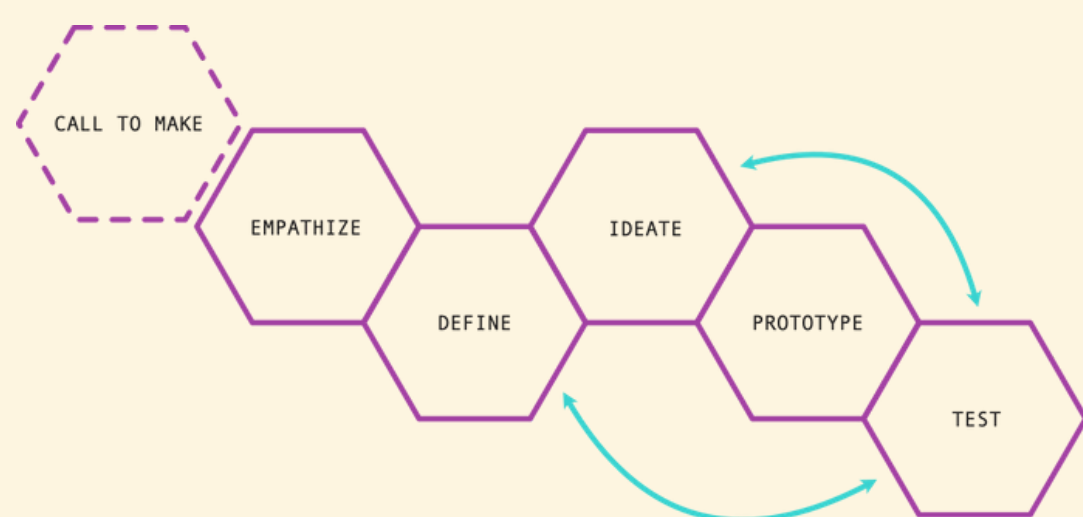
What fruit and vegetables can you find in your home? Can they be regrown in water or do they need to be regrow in soil? Are they grown from seeds or roots? How much sunlight will your plants need in order to grow healthy fruits or vegetables?

#### PROTOTYPE

If you are working with different seeds and plants, you will notice that they all have different needs in order to grow. How does your prototype meet the needs of what you are growing? What type of soil are you using? What materials or containers make the best pots for your starter plants?

#### TEST

Check your starter plants regularly for root development and growth. After your plants take root, what are your next steps to maintain their growth? How often do you need to change the water? How do you know when they should be transplanted? What plants did not grow and why?



"Deep empathy for people makes our observations powerful sources of inspiration."  
—David Kelley

