

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.

CONSTELLATION LIGHTBOX

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE

What if there was a way to recreate the constellations in our room and learn more about our planet, and our planet's twinkly neighbours?

EMPATHIZE

How were the stars used in history? Do the constellations you see at night change throughout the year? If you were in another galaxy, would you still see the same patterns of stars in the sky?

DEFINE

What are the variables we need to consider in our project? What allows you to see stars at night versus the day time?

IDEATE

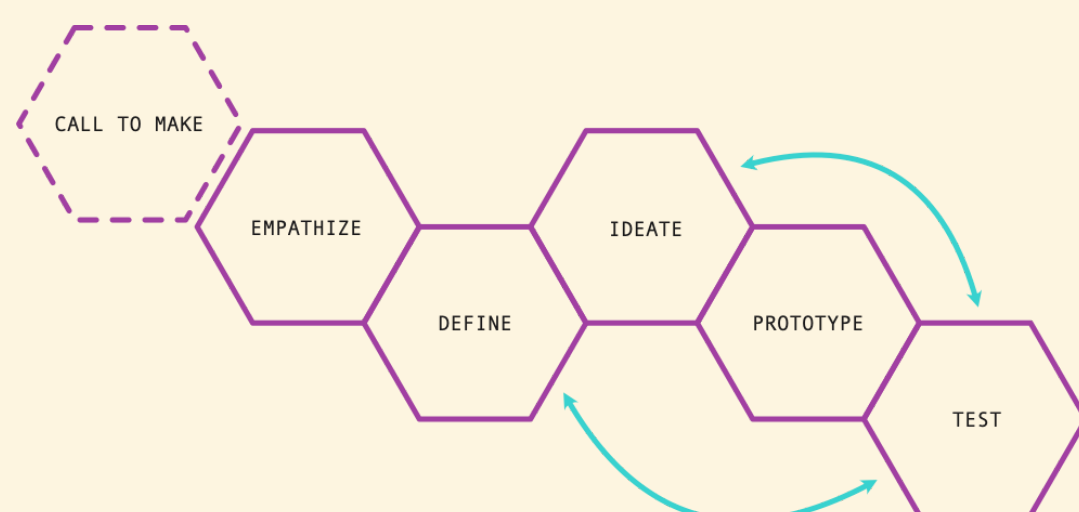
Our objective is to focus light through cut out holes that represent constellations. There are an infinite amount of stars in the sky, which ones will you use in your project? If we want to create an accurate depiction of the northern hemisphere sky at night, what constellations are visible in the sky at this time of the year?

PROTOTYPE

As you begin to test your creation, what are some ways we can improve our design?
Is light escaping through cracks and crevices?
Are the holes you punched too large?

TEST

How did your project turn out? In a dark lit room, can you see projected circles of light on the ceiling or wall that take the shape of a constellation?



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