

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.

EGG-CELLENT COOKING!

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE

How can you act responsibly so that the resources on the planet will be able to support many generations to come? Have you ever thought about where your food comes from and what impact it has on the environment? How can preparing meals with local products to benefit your health, your environment and ultimately the whole planet?

EMPATHIZE

How do you or your family assess your carbon footprint? How do local farmers eat? Where does your family get their food? Where can people get food in your region? What is a typical meal from your area? or other areas in your province? How does where we live influence our eating habits?

DEFINE

Your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air because of your own energy needs. You need transportation, electricity, food, clothing and other goods. Your food choices can make a difference. Prepare a meal using ingredients that are harvested locally. How do you try to reduce your carbon footprint everyday? How does your local farmers help better the environment?

IDEATE

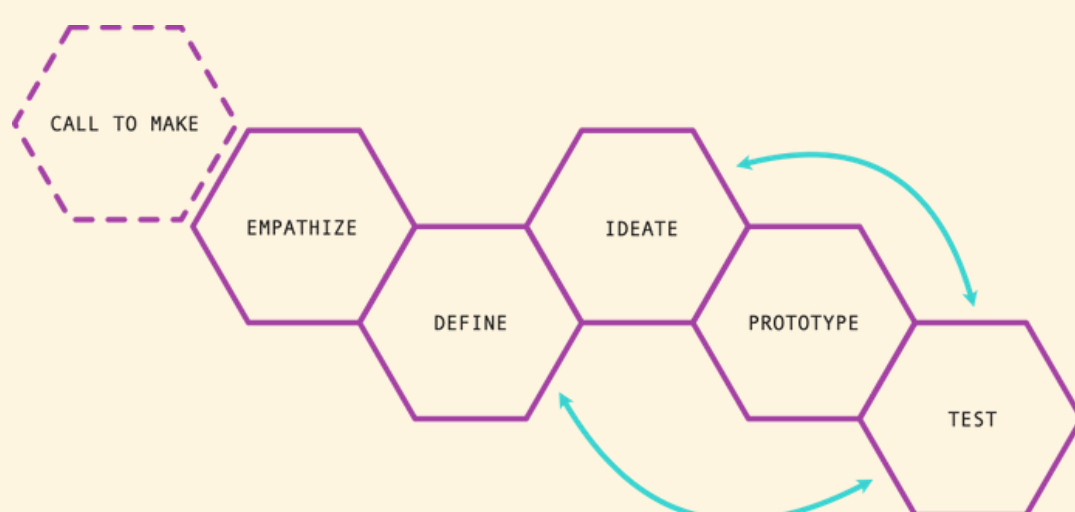
How can we raise awareness for people to see the importance of sustainable cooking? Who will you be cooking for? Which sustainable foods will you use? Where will you get your ingredients? Why is it important to preserve their farmlands? You will be working with knives and a stove. Which adult will supervise you? What preparation is needed for each ingredient?

PROTOTYPE

How does it taste? What is your favorite recipe? Which vegetables cook in a similar manner? Which ingredients can you find locally? Can you find a substitute for the ingredients you don't have in hand? How will you know if it's cooked enough?

TEST

What future changes can you make in the recipe to improve the taste?



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