#MakerFun DAILY CHALLENGE

Join us every week day at 10am AST for a new Make-At-Home activity & 1pm AST for an Outdoor activity for a Digital Learning skill while schools are closed.

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.

CREATE YOUR OWN NATURE TRAIL

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE
Identifying what exists around you in nature, is the first step in protecting our environment. If we lose these words and names, what are the chances we will know that they exist, or notice if they disappear? How can we share these names and observations with others?

EMPATHIZE
How can we create a fun way to learn about our local environment? How can we share this information with others? How would you feel if there were no more animals or birds in your backyard? How would you feel waking up to silence, no birds chirping?

DEFINE
Do you have an outdoor space to explore and safely observe nature? If not, can you observe nature from a window? Maybe there is more nature then you think inside your own house! Do you have house plants or pets? Can you tell what the fibers that make your carpets and cushions are?

IDEATE
What other sources can be used to identify the nature that has been observed? How will you share your knowledge and identities of what has been observed? Signs? A video? How can they be placed so they are visible without harming the ecosystem?

PROTOTYPE
Create your outdoor or indoor nature trail. Can you easily see all your points of interest as you walk along? How can you make sure your signs are seen and easy to read and understand?

TEST
Have others follow your nature trail. What did they learn? What can be improved?
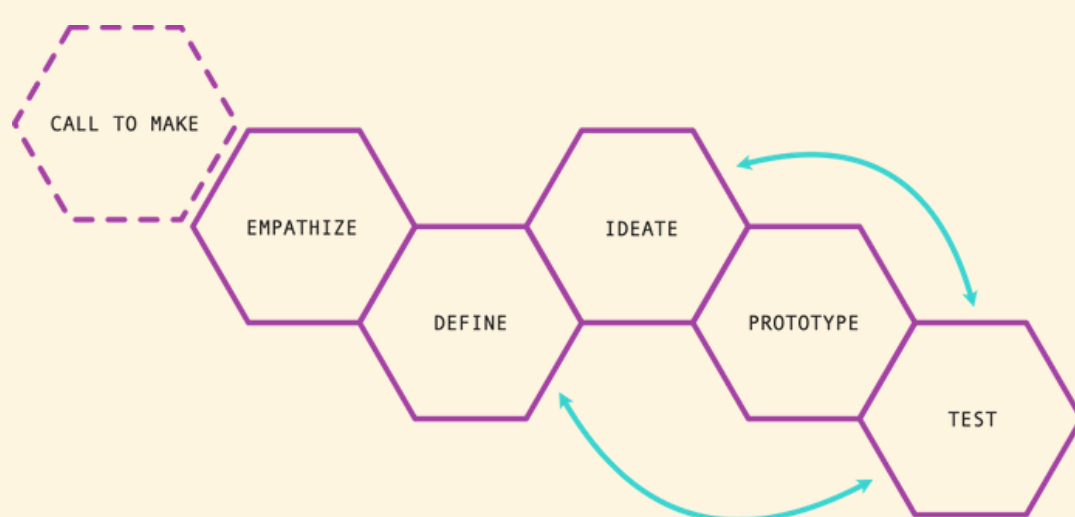
"Deep empathy for people makes our observations powerful sources of inspiration."
—David Kelley