

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.

BINARY CALLIGRAPHY

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE

What if we could share a meaningful message related to the United Nations SDGs using an artistic form of code? Binary code uses the digits of 0 and 1 (binary numbers) to represent computer instructions or text. What if we could take the 0 and 1s and turn them into calligraphy art?

EMPATHIZE

Is your message one that your friends and family share? How can we phrase a message so that others understand and appreciate the topic? Are important messages better understood if they are short or have more details? How can we be inclusive? How can we be socially and culturally sensitive and aware of other's values and feelings?

DEFINE

How did you decide which SDG to choose for your message? Did you choose one or two words or a sentence? When converting your message from words to binary code did you change your message to change the overall design of the calligraphy? Think of your target audience. Who is this message for? Will they need a key to decode this message? Did you notice any patterns as you created your binary design?

IDEATE

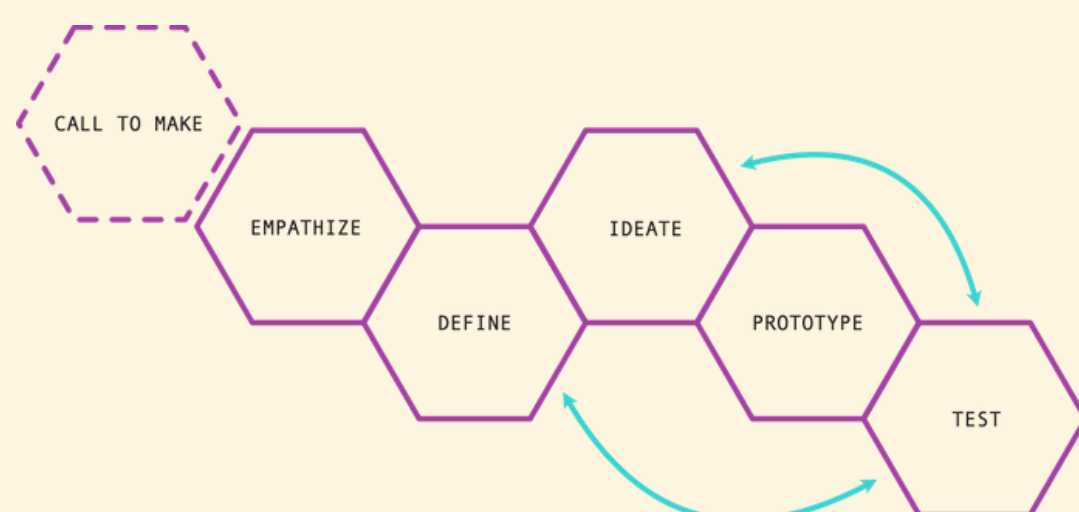
What message would you want to share with everyone to spark a change related to the SDG goal of your choice? Where and how will you share this message? Is there a shape that connects with your message? Where on the paper will you begin writing your code? How will you arrange your code visually? What patterns or shapes will you create?

PROTOTYPE

Choose a place on the paper where you want to begin your binary code. Using the reference sheet, you can start sketching in binary. You can begin with a letter, then move on with a word, sentence, and more. You can go horizontal or vertical. If you run out of paper, attach another paper with tape, and keep going till you complete coding your message.

TEST

How does the message look? Did you get a desired pattern? Share your calligraphy with your family members along with the reference sheet. Seek their feedback. Refine your work by rearranging and regenerating the code.



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