

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.

LUNCH IS JUST A FORAGE AWAY!

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE

Did you ever go for a nature walk with your family and forget some snacks? Have you ever wondered what you can eat that is right outside your door? Who wants to shop for food when you can go on an adventure and find snacks along the way?

EMPATHIZE

Supplement our diets with local foraging since fresh vegetables are not available all the time. Your grand-parents recipes were mostly made with ingredients from their region. What were their carbon footprints? Compare it with yours? Respect for the seasonal food chain which also lowers carbon footprint.

DEFINE

Create a recipe that includes edible seasonal items found while foraging outside. Identify what grows near you as a starting point and what is in season. Describe what type of dish your end product will be? Which ingredients give you the desired properties to complete the desired dish?

IDEATE

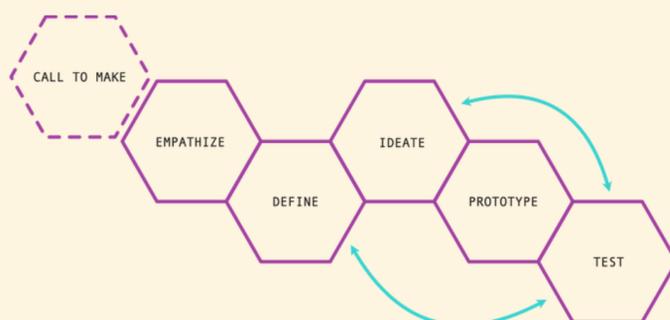
What is the best way to transport your found food? A bag, basket, sive, bucket, etc Think about the length of time it will take for your foraging walk. Do you need to store your items in a cooler? Would a cloth bag work, or are you putting items into a backpack where they might get damaged?

PROTOTYPE

Create a recipe with your foraged ingredients. Do you have a favorite recipe you can add to? Are there traditional recipes from your area that you can try?

TEST

Bring your recipe to fruition and create the end product with foraged goods. How could you improve on this recipe for next time? Make notes on your process and tweak your recipe.



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