



## **Activity Pack 1: Imagine**



### **Activity for Grades K-2**

*Thomas Edison once said, "To have a great idea is to have a lot of them."*

Brainstorming is a key part of this stage in the creative process. In fact, brainstorming remains one of the most effective creative thinking techniques in use today. The primary cornerstone to brainstorming is the absence of judgment or criticism. All ideas, no matter how non-traditional, have the right to exist at this stage. This is particularly valuable for those students who lack the confidence to publicly share their ideas.

A comfortable, collaborative environment can help to inspire students during the "imagine" phase. Invite students to sit on beanbag chairs instead of at desks, in groups instead of by themselves, outdoors rather than inside the school, or listening to music instead of working in silence.

This year's *Doodle 4 Google* competition theme is: If I could invent one thing to make the world a better place. We can think of no greater purpose for students to show their creativity than to make the world better for others. It all starts with a little imagination!

### **A Web of Imagination**

*In this activity, students create imaginary animals that start with the letter "T" and use their imaginations and a web brainstorming strategy to help them generate creative ideas for how to make the world a better place.*

**Strategy:** This activity uses the web brainstorming strategy. Web brainstorming is particularly good to use with young children to help them visualize and organize many different ideas and see how they connect to one another. During web brainstorming, a topic or question is written inside a shape in the center of a whiteboard or other writing surface. This can also be done electronically, using the applications listed below. Ideas or questions that connect to the main topic can be written and connected inside of other shapes on the board. From those shapes, lines are drawn like branches, onto which all ideas are written. These ideas, however, can be written in word form or in pictures. They can even be doodled! It's important that students are encouraged to come up with as many ideas as possible, no matter how silly or unlikely they seem. You will want to make sure students support all answers with no judgments.

#### **You Will Need:**

- One BAND-AID®
- Flip chart or whiteboard
- Computers or tablets (optional)
- Access to the Internet (optional)

1. Spark your students' imagination by asking them to list as many animals as they can that start with the letter "T." Younger students can create a class list on a flip chart while older students can create their own lists. Students likely will name real animals such as a turtle or a tiger.
2. Once they have run out of ideas, ask students why they *only* named animals they have seen in person or in books or movies. Encourage them to expand the possibilities by creating completely new animals from their imaginations or by combining two different animals into a brand new one. *For example, the tortelephant has a long trunk and a tortoise shell. It's purple with pink polka dots and wears roller skates.* Celebrate completely unlikely animals. Encourage students to ask each other questions about these made-up animals.
3. Ask students what they used to come up with these new and different animals. Explain that they used their imaginations! Our imagination is what allows us to create things that may not already exist. Tell students that many of the things they play with, such as skateboards and dolls, came from someone's imagination. If no one had imagined them, they would not exist.
4. Hold up a BAND-AID® (or other common object used to help people). Explain that the BAND-AID® was created by a man named Earle Dickson who wanted to help his wife, Josephine. She was always cutting herself when cooking, and the cotton ball and tape she used to cover her cuts never stayed in place. So he had an idea that if he combined the bandage with the tape, it would help her. His idea worked. He brought it to his colleagues at Johnson & Johnson and his creative idea turned into an invention. Even though the primary vision of the BAND-AID® was to help his wife, he created something that made the world better.
5. Write the question for this year's *Doodle 4 Google* competition on a chalkboard, electronic whiteboard or flip chart: If I could invent one thing to make the world a better place, what would it be? You may want to explain the competition to students at this time. Information and previous entries can be viewed at [www.google.com/doodle4google](http://www.google.com/doodle4google).
6. Ask students to put on their brainstorming hats and get ready to share ideas! On a whiteboard or electronic board, or using one of the brainstorming applications below, write the words, "I Can Help!" in the center of the web. Then draw six shapes that connect to the center box with the headings "family," "friends," "community," "animals," "environment" and "world" on them.
7. Invite students to generate as many ideas as possible for ways they could help the people and things in the category boxes. Refer students back to the exercise from the beginning of the lesson and remind them that their ideas can seem impossible and silly. They should use their imaginations. As students list ideas, categorize them in the web. (Note: With older students, you could alternatively brainstorm problems in the classroom, school, community, and world. Students could then brainstorm solutions for solving these problems.)
8. Once students think they have exhausted all ideas, you may want to ask for more! Invite them to look at the web they have created and all of the different ways they could possibly make the world better.
9. Once you have as many ideas as the class can generate, ask students to consider all of their options and choose the one that they would most like to make the subject of a doodle for the

Doodle 4 Google competition.

10. Finally, ask each student to complete the competition prompt: If I could invent one thing to make the world a better place, I would \_\_\_\_\_.

**Extension:**

We often hear it said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. In addition to brainstorming, our ideas are often inspired by the creations of others. Encourage students to bring in an object or image that sparks their imagination. Have students present their objects or images and explain what they like about them. Students can then use these as springboards for the Create activity, High Five, as well as other writing or drawing projects.