




Sparking Creativity - K-6




This lesson is meant to teach students how to think outside of the box. Students will learn how to be more creative in school, and in their thinking. This lesson is suited for grades K-6. Complete the lesson by following the instructions found in each section.

 Teacher Led	 Requires Computer OR Mobile Device	 Requires Spaces
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Learning Goals

1. Students will learn strategies to clearly express their ideas, feelings, and thoughts.
2. Students will participate in creative activities to spark innovation.
3. Students will learn skills needed to think creatively.

Materials

 Student Handouts	Creativity Activity Handout
 Technology Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet• Mobile device, tablet, or laptop
 Additional Materials	Copy of The Dot by Peter Reynolds

Introduction

1. Discussion

- a. Have a discussion with students about the word “creativity.” Ask students what do they think when they hear the word creativity? Write the answers on the board.
- b. Ask the students to collaborate with a partner. In pairs, students will reflect on a time when they were “creative.” Encourage the conversation by giving them an example of when you were creative. To spark conversation, also give another example of when the classroom as a unit was creative in the past. Allow 2-3 minutes for conversation. Have groups volunteer to share their responses.

2. Spark Interest

- a. Spark the interest of students by showing them three classroom objects. The objects can be a stapler, a book, a chair, etc. The purpose of this exercise is to encourage innovative and creative thinking. Ask students to describe the objects, without using the name of the object. Encourage them to use descriptive languages like color and size.
- b. Depending on the age group, you can turn this exercise into a mystery game “name that objects.” Divide the classroom into two sides. One side will give examples and hints about the mystery object, and the other side will guess the object.

Read Aloud

Explain to students that you will be reading them a book today about creativity. Tell them you want them to think about how the author and characters in the book show creativity.

1. Before reading the book, re-introduce the topic of creativity. Have 1 volunteer give their definition of creativity again. This will allow students to remember the focus of the lesson and to regroup after the last activity.
2. Expectations – clearly state your expectations to students and confirm they understand the assignment. Tell students you are about to read a book and you want them to think about creativity and how the character(s) in the book are being creative.

3. Read the book. Be sure to show the photos in the book to help students to start thinking creatively. Give students time to scan the page.
4. After reading the book, ask the following questions:
 - a. How was Vashti creative in the book?
 - b. Why do you think Vashti was frustrated or discouraged in the book?
 - c. What was your favorite illustration in the book? Why?
 - d. How would you make a dot creative?

Creativity

Explain to the students what creativity is.

- Creativity is being able to see many things in new ways. Creativity is going beyond what you are given and what you can see and coming up with your own ideas and stories. Creative thinking is when someone makes something unique that was not there before.

Ask students the following question:

- Why do you think it's important to be creative?

Show Creativity: The best way for students to start thinking creatively is to be shown how others think creatively. Write on the board a large letter A:

- First, show the class how you can use your imagination to make designs around the letter "A." For example, you can draw arms, hair, legs, etc.
- Next, have 3-4 volunteers come to the board to creatively design any letter. Have the class discuss how each student used creative thinking to design their letter. Be sure to point out that no one student did the exact same thing and this is the importance of being creative.

Note: depending on the age group, consider using other options other than the letter "A." Other examples include a car, a flower, or an animal.

Explain to the students that they will now practice their creativity skills.

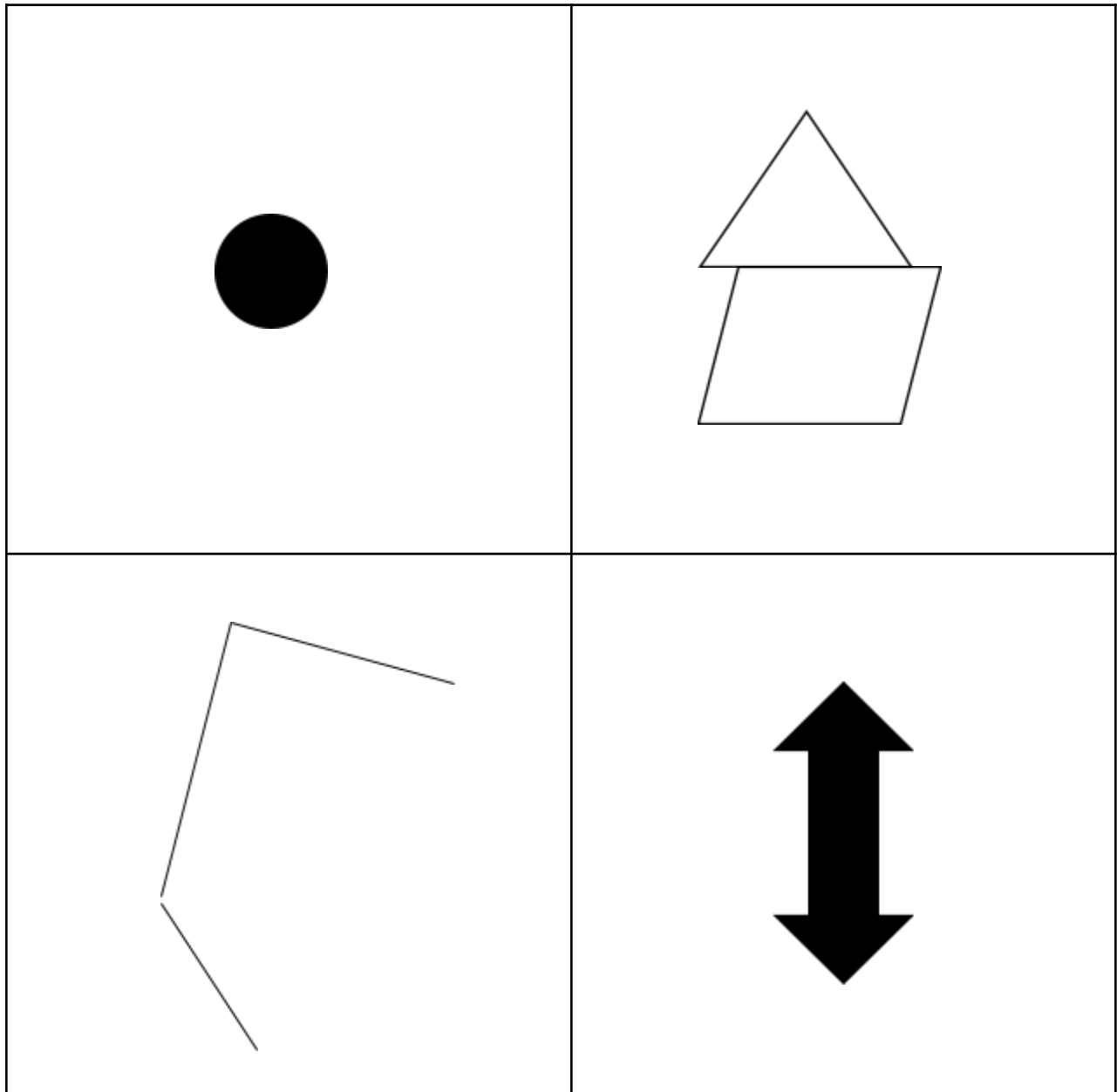
Please see the activity on the next page.

Creativity Activity

Finish the Drawing

In this activity, students will finish the drawing. Encourage students to use their imagination. Remind students that there are no “right” or “wrong” ways of completing the drawing. Give them free rein and celebrate all combinations.

Finish the drawing:



Documenting in Spaces

Teacher Tip! The instructions for this lesson involve adding to the Class or Individual Space in Spaces. You can adapt the instructions if you'd prefer to make this an Activity.

1. Students will document their learning in Spaces by following these guidelines:
 - a. Click **+ Create** > Choose **Camera** > Take a photo of the completed Finish The Drawing Activity
 - b. Add a **Title** > *My Creation*
 - c. Post a Description > Have students answer one or more of the following prompts:
 - What does creativity mean to you?
 - What do you think the world would look like if there was no creativity?
 - d. Click **✓ Next**
 - e. Choose the **Class Space** or **Individual Space**
 - f. Click **✓ Post**