

Cookie Recipe

Visually depict the steps involved in making cookies

TIME 20-30 minutes	MATERIALS Paper, markers	TEAM STAGE Forming, Norming, Performing
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Learning & Development Outcomes

This activity will give participants practice using systems thinking to create comprehensive project plans. It will allow them to think through all of the steps required to achieve a desired outcome.

Outcomes are focused on developing *21st Century Skills* and the *National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies*, including, but not limited to:

- Prioritizing, planning and managing work to achieve the intended result.
- Analyzing how parts of a whole interact with each other to produce overall outcomes in complex systems.
- Prioritizing and completing tasks to accomplish organizational goals.
- Planning, initiating, managing, completing, and evaluating projects.

Preparation & Logistics



Set Up

- Make sure that everyone has space to work independently and a solid surface in front of them.
- Prepare a six-step worksheet by dividing a piece of paper into 6 segments and writing a number one to six in the top left corner of each segment. Make a copy of the worksheet for each participant.

Safety

- Remind participants that there is no wrong way to complete this activity. Participants can choose to include any steps they would like, and can represent those steps in any way they choose.

Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.
- [Click here to watch it live!](#)

1	2	3
4	5	6

Instructions

Summary

Participants will come up with and visually depict the steps involved in making cookies.

This activity is appropriate for all ages.

Step 1: Distribute materials

- Give each everyone a copy of the worksheet.
- Place markers in a central location where all participants can come up and get the colors they need.

Step 2: Create visual recipes

- Have each person come up with 6 steps required to make cookies.
- Once they have their 6 steps, have them visually depict each step one of the boxes on their worksheet.

Step 3: Give everyone a chance to share

- After spending about 15 minutes creating the visual recipes, have participants get in small groups to share.
- Give each participant a few minutes to share the steps they came up with and show their group the drawings they created for each step.

How to end the activity

- The activity is over once everyone has shared their visual recipe.



Can we use other recipes?

"Yes! And you don't even need to use a recipe. You can use any process that participants will be familiar with, such as building a sand castle or brushing your teeth."



Be prepared to help participants think out of the box and come up with additional steps. Ask them questions such as "how are you going to get the ingredients?", "how are you going to decorate the cookies?", or "what are you going to do with the cookies when they're finished?"



Debrief Questions



These questions are a starting point to guide your debrief. Pick the ones that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed!

What

- How did you come up with the 6 steps to include?
- What steps did you not include that someone making cookies might need to think about?

So What

- Why is it important to think through all of the steps needed to do something?
- How can having a recipe be helpful when you're trying to make something?

Now What

- What other recipes do you think you could come up with?
- Aside from making cookies, when else might a recipe be helpful to have?

Adjustments for...

Large Group (25+)

- Have participants work in pairs or small groups to come up with the steps and create visual recipes rather than working independently.

Small Group (1-9)

- Have participants share their visual recipes for the whole group rather than putting them in small groups to share.

Risk Level

- To lower the risk level, come up with the 6 steps together as a group. Then, let each participant create their own visual recipe using those 6 steps.

Group has prior experience

- Instead of having everyone create visual recipes for cookies, let each participant pick what their recipe is going to be for. Encourage them to pick any food they know how to make.

Online

- Create a shared slide document with a slide for each participant's visual recipe using a platform like Google Slides or Google Jamboard.



Each adjustment is its own unique idea for how to facilitate this activity for different groups and situations! Choose any or all that work!