



What If

LESSON

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME

In this lesson, participants learn about creativity and build confidence using their own creativity to answer wild and wacky “What if” questions.

MATERIALS

None

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This activity is appropriate for all ages. However, facilitators may choose prompts more relevant to their group than the ones provided in the Resources list.

Lesson Plan

Introducing the Lesson

- Ask participants, what does “creativity” mean?
 - To clarify or summarize, you can provide some of the following definitions and/or examples before moving on to the next question:
 - *Creativity is trying out new things*
 - *Creativity is using our imagination*
 - *Creativity helps us figure things out and solve problems*
 - When do we use our creativity?
 - Examples: *When we are playing, when we are drawing, when we tell stories, when we make something new, etc.*
- It is important to highlight that everyone can be creative and creativity looks different for each of us, that’s what makes it special!

Experiencing the Lesson

- Tell participants that they are going to put on their creative thinking hats to come up with responses to different wacky and imaginative scenarios.
- Give participants a scenario to think about from the Resources list. Ask them to imagine what might happen in that scenario? What would they do? How would their life be different?
- Go through one or two of these scenarios all together, asking each participant to share a thought or response. The answers can get pretty silly! Let participants enjoy their ideas but also stay on track and not interrupt others.
- Then let participants think of their own silly scenarios. Go around the circle and let everyone share their scenarios with the group.



What if someone has a creative block?

“Remind participants that everyone hits creative blocks and that it is okay! Prepare prompts to help them get unstuck or allow them to work with a partner or small group.”



Closing the Lesson

- Have participants affirm their own creativity by repeating the following affirmations:
 - I am creative!
 - I am talented!
 - I have great ideas!
 - I have a good imagination!
 - I'm a good problem solver!

After the Lesson

- Be mindful of how you encourage creativity with participants. No matter what age, we all know how quickly we can label ourselves as “not creative” and reinforce it with negative self-talk. Continue to boost participant creativity by:
 - Avoiding labeling participants or projects as “creative” or not.
 - Asking participants open ended questions.
 - Helping participants learn from mistakes by responding positively.
 - Encouraging participants to try new things.



Some of us think more abstractly and others more concretely. BOTH can be creative! Remember this when you are working with participants that think differently than you. Think of ways to prompt thought for both types of thinking!

Further Exploration



- Challenge your participants to write a letter to someone without using the words "I", "me", "my", and "mine".
 - Include a lesson on how to write a letter if you would like! You can teach the group:
 - how to format a letter
 - different salutations and closings
 - how to write the date
 - signing your name
 - ...and more!
- If you'd like to take it one step further, challenge participants to not say "I", "me", "my", and "mine" for a certain period of time when in a group.

Get Creative

- What if the participants got to write the end of a story? Choose a book to read aloud to participants. Before the story ends, pause and ask participants to think about how they would want the book to end.
- Pass out a Worksheet and drawing tools to each participant and encourage them to tell the ending of the story in both words and pictures.
- Have each participant share out loud. Recognize all participants for their creative endings to the story.
- You may also read the original author's own creative end out loud if participants want to hear it.

Online

- To facilitate this lesson online, facilitators and participants will need access to audio through their conference platform (ex: Zoom).
- Lead the entire activity together in the main session room. Encourage participants to use the raise hand feature before speaking and to keep themselves on mute until it is their turn to share so that everyone can participate equally.

Resources

- Scenarios
 - What if it was sunny all night and dark all day?
 - What if you could fly like a bird?
 - What if you were the teacher today?
 - What if dogs could drive cars?
 - What if this room was made of chocolate?
 - What if money grew on trees?
 - What if plants could talk?
 - What if you never had to sleep?
 - What if the ocean was made of soda?
 - What if you were famous?



