

Lesson 7: The Power of Creativity

PURPOSE

To help students appreciate the power of creativity and use it in their lives.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand creativity as uniquely human power which moves one's imagination and ideas to shape the world.
2. Recognize the power of art to give us another perspective on reality.
3. Brainstorm creative solutions that affect people and their dignity.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- Nine Dot Problem
- Six Great Creative Inventions
- The Greatest Story Never Told
- Creativity in Code

VOCABULARY

- Creativity: using one's imagination and ideas to shape the world

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Review the previous lesson. Recall the Spiderman Principle and how it reflects in different decisions that people make. Emphasize the key distinction between freedom for excellence and freedom of indifference/to do whatever I want.

Ask the students if they have completed the [Interim Quiz 1](#). Ask them if some of the questions were difficult and help clarify the answers.

Step 2: Start the lesson by dividing the students into groups and asking them to solve the [Nine Dot Problem](#). The students will receive the picture of nine dots arranged in a square. Their task is to connect all nine dots by four straight lines without lifting the pen from the paper and without retracing any lines. Give the groups five minutes to try and solve the task before sharing the solution.

After five minutes, ask the groups if they managed to solve the problem. Ask them also to share their unsuccessful attempts to solve it and why they did not work. Afterwards, walk the students through the Nine Dot Problem – Answer Key for the Teacher solution.

Step 3: Note that this problem clearly shows what it means to think inside and outside of the box. Most people don't solve the problem because they don't think they can go outside the "box" to solve the problem. So, to successfully solve the problem, changing the perspective on the problem is needed.

In this exercise, students used their power to think and their power to choose, trying out different ideas and solutions. However, in addition to these two powers, students used another uniquely human power: the power of creativity.

Write the definition on the board:

Creativity: using one's imagination and ideas to shape the world

Creativity is born of the power to think and the power to choose. Creativity is also uniquely human. Monkeys and cats can imitate a painting but they did not invent mixing pigments (colors) and using these to illustrate the world around them on a canvas. In addition to being essential to making art, creativity also just helps us find new solutions to tackle problems in the world. Show students the [Six Great Creative Inventions](#).

Human creativity is at work in arts, in science, in design and culture in general. We use it also in our relationships. For example, to be a good friend, we sometimes need to creatively think how to make our friend happy (like when thinking which birthday present to give them or even how to make them laugh when they're sad.)

Just as the nine-dot problem enabled us to see the problem from a new perspective, creativity can help us see the world from another perspective.

Divide students into groups and ask them to create [The Greatest Story Never Told](#). Each group should write a short story by using the terms and sentences from the worksheet in any order they prefer. They can change the grammatical tenses, cases, etc., but they also need to make sure to preserve the meaning of the sentence. Students can also use or add anything they have learned in the Human Dignity Curriculum that they consider valuable to include.

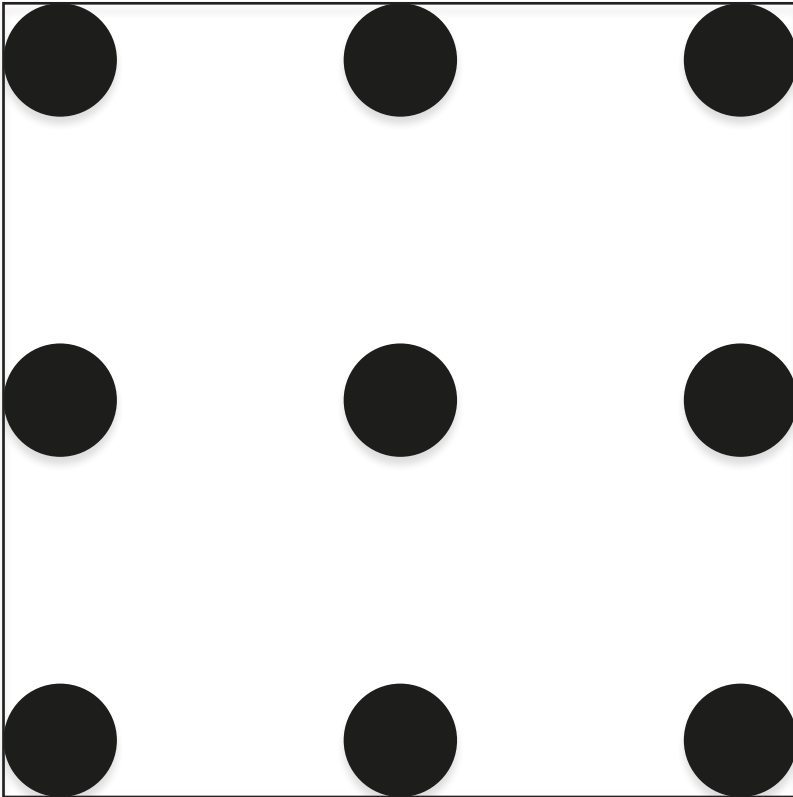
After all groups finish writing their story, ask a volunteer from each group to read the story to the rest of the class. Finally, the class should vote on what they think is the best story.

Step 4: Another creative human invention is language. Think of all of the different letters and words you wrote down to tell your story. It's mind-boggling to think about how many languages there are in the world and that every language has different words and punctuation and grammar! It's like... a world of code! In fact, a fun way to creatively play with language is through code games. Give each student the [Creativity in Code](#) worksheet. If the class runs out of time, ask students to complete their Creativity in Code worksheet for homework.

Step 5: Summarize. Recall the definition of creativity and its importance in human life. Highlight that the power of creativity can be used in art to give us another perspective on reality, and it can be used to problem solve challenges in our everyday life. Motivate the students to practice using their gift of creativity by writing, journaling, drawing or making something or any other form of creative expression.

NINE DOT PROBLEM

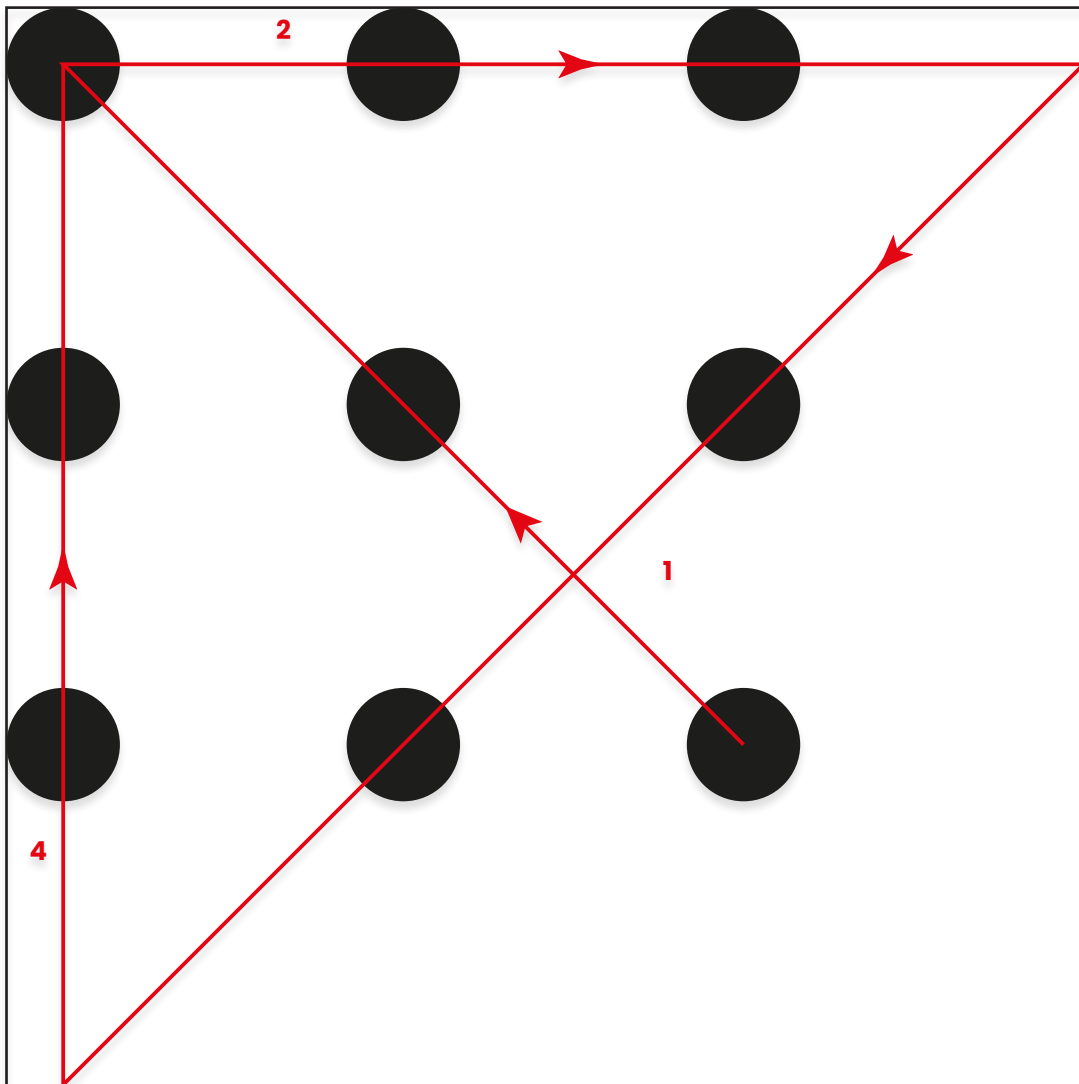
Connect all nine dots by four straight lines without lifting the pen from the paper and without retracing any lines.



Nine Dot Problem - Answer Key for the Teacher

Solution:

1. Start from the bottom right dot, draw a line through the central dot ending on the top left.
2. Connect the top row, but do not stop on the top right – continue on to the next dot if the pattern continues.
3. Now draw a line through the middle right and middle bottom – continuing again to where the next dot would be.
4. Finally connect the remaining 2 dots in an upward line.



SIX GREAT CREATIVE INVENTIONS

1. The reusable candle?! Ever had a candle burn down and leave wax all over the place? Clearly someone thought to themselves: why can't that wax that drips all over the candle holder, be contained and fill up the next candle! And voila: the very creative reusable candle.



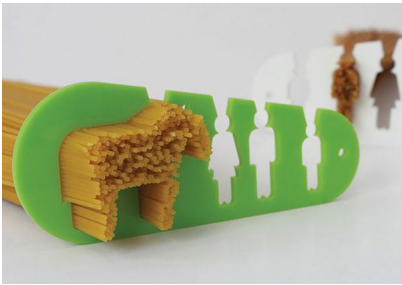
2. The Lego keychain holder!



3. The Baby Shower Hat? Hilarious and genius, right? Now your little sister or brother doesn't have to get water and soap in their eyes. You might just have to convince them to wear this plastic thing on their head though...



4. The Spaghetti Measuring Tool: "Hungry as a horse?" That'll be two boxes of spaghetti?



5. The Baby Stroller Scooter! Why take the baby for a stroll, when you could take them for a scooter ride instead, right?

Kids: Don't try this at home with your sibling.



6. The umbrella coffee cup holder.



THE GREATEST STORY NEVER TOLD

Write a short story by using the terms and sentences below in any order you choose. Feel free to change the grammatical tenses, cases, etc., but make sure to preserve the meaning of the sentence. Build around these sentences and expand them to make an interesting story. Make sure to include all things a good story needs to have: a hero, a villain, a plot with tension and a happy ending. Don't forget to start with "Once upon a time..." and think about the title of the story.

The sentences to build around are:

A tiger named Rick...

An elephant called Mickey...

Jumping off the cliff...

He was almost late...

The problem was that...

No one ever told him that...

They never listened to anyone and used their freedom to do whatever they wanted...

Everyone goes through difficult times occasionally...

This was his greatest fear...

He realized that he was capable of excellence...

With freedom comes responsibility...

Resolving to change and do only good things from now on...

Good friends do that for each other...

CREATIVITY IN CODE

Codes are a way of altering a message so the original meaning is hidden at first sight. Can you creatively uncover these codes?

WORD REVERSE

1. ESU RUOY SREWOP OT ESOOHC TAHW SI TNELLECXE

2. YREVE NAMUH NOSREP SAH YTINGID

3. EW NAC YLURT EVOL STCEJBUS, ELIHW EW NAC YLNO EKIL STCEJBO

REFLECTION METHOD

Sample: u r y y b
h e l l o

a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

4. gur uhzna novyvgl gb xabj naq pbaarpg vqrnf

5. bayl uvznaf unir gur cbjref gb guvax naq pubbfr

CODE 26

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

6.

8	21	13	1	14	3	18	5	1	20	9	22	9	20	25	9	19	20	8	5	23	15	18	12	4	19	7
18	5	1	20	5	19	20	7	9	6	20																

Creativity in Code - Answer Key for the Teacher

Codes are a way of altering a message so the original meaning is hidden at first sight. Can you creatively uncover these codes?

WORD REVERSE

- ESU RUOY SREWOP OT ESOOHC TAHW SI TNELLECXE
USE YOUR POWERS TO CHOOSE WHAT IS EXCELLENT
- YREVE NAMUH NOSREP SAH YTINGID
EVERY HUMAN PERSON HAS DIGNITY
- EW NAC YLURT EVOL STCEJBUS, ELIHW EW NAC YLNO EKIL STCEJBO
WE CAN TRULY LOVE SUBJECTS, WHILE WE CAN ONLY LIKE OBJECTS

REFLECTION METHOD

Sample: u r y y b
h e l l o

a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

- gur uhzna novyvgl gb xabj naq pbaarpg vqrnf
The human ability to know and connect ideas
- bayl uvznaf unir gur cbjref gb guvax naq pubbfr
Only humans have the powers to think and choose

CODE 26

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

6.

8	21	13	1	14	3	18	5	1	20	9	22	9	20	25	9	19	20	8	5	23	15	18	12	4	19
H	U	M	A	N	C	R	E	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	I	S	T	H	E	W	O	R	L	D	S

7	18	5	1	20	5	19	20	7	9	6	20
G	R	E	A	T	E	S	T	G	I	F	T