

TOOLBAR



Time Required

One 45-minute period



Materials Needed

- Paper
- Crayons and/or pencils

Suggested Activities Favorites

Activity Objective

Students practice creative and critical thinking by combining different traits or aspects of familiar items to generate a new invention or discovery.

What To Do

Hand a piece of paper to each student, then ask students to close their eyes and imagine four of their favorite things: their favorite toy or object, their favorite place, their favorite food, and their favorite color. Then have them write those four favorites down, by describing in words or by drawing each of these items on the sheet.

Ask students to look at their sheet and think about how they could combine their favorites creatively. For example, if their favorite toy is a video game and their favorite place is the beach, they might invent a similar game that uses the beach as a location and their favorite color as the color on the video screen. Students should be allowed to be as original as possible, and they should be encouraged to think creatively. Watch for any language or behavior that diminishes or censors.

Have the students turn over their page and begin inventing a new object. Ask them to draw their invention on the back of the paper. Have them write down a name for their new idea and explain how they combined their favorites and what the invention does.

Suggested Activities Grandparent Timeline



Time Required

One or more class periods,
depending on the number of
speakers



Materials Needed

- Video or tape recorder

Activity Objective

To interview primary sources in order to see how the pace of change has affected lives and culture in a single lifetime; to understand the cultural, social, economic, and psychological shifts associated with technological change. Be sure to have the students get permission to do these interviews.

What To Do

A great way to introduce this activity is to have a guest speaker who can talk about his or her personal response to technology over a lifetime. If this is not possible, have a student interview a teacher (over 50 years old works best) on the topic. Then homework sheets should be distributed. Record the conversations (on tape or video) to archive for future use.

After the interviews, students should be able to discuss the impact of inventions or innovation on society and individuals.