



Curiosity

a building block for creativity



Activity Guide for Classroom Creativity

for Global
Education Week

Primary Edition
Ages 5-10

The Building International Creativity Resource Series



Welcome!



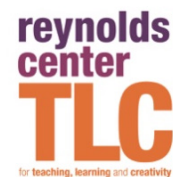
BIC is committed to improving learning conditions for students worldwide.

At BIC, we believe that education is crucial for fostering free will and independence, developing confidence in creative self-expression, and building critical thinking skills that, at the highest level, hold the power to change the world. Our creation and support of a diverse range of educational initiatives worldwide aims to inspire a lifelong love for learning in students of all ages.

For **BIC Global Education Week** this year, the BIC Corporate Foundation is helping bring creativity into the classroom. Within these pages are activities that will ignite a sense of curiosity and wonder in students through practical methods that are simple to execute. To ensure quality in your classroom, the latest industry research from the science of creativity in education has been utilized to develop this guide. We stress that this guide encourages you to teach your normal curriculum, but use a teaching approach that builds curiosity in your classroom.

Thank you for taking part in our vision to build stronger, more inclusive, more creative classrooms for generations to come!

This guide was developed in collaboration with:





Activity: The Cylinder of Curiosity

Curiosity as a Driver of Creativity

Creativity begins with attitudes, such as open-mindedness, resilience, looking at things from multiple perspectives, and, most importantly, **curiosity**. In this learning experience you will demonstrate **how you as a teacher experience curiosity** and demonstrate that to your students.

Tell the students about something which makes you feel **curious** in any aspect of your life. Students love to know that teachers have a rich life outside school and utilize the skills of school in their everyday life (for you this might be sports, nature, food, travel, hobbies, arts, whatever makes you curious). Let the students know that they will be exploring their curiosity.



A key skill for teachers and students to develop in terms of creativity is the use of **open-ended questions**. These are questions which do not have a simple yes or no as an answer. They allow students to think more deeply and to personalize their responses as well as justifying why they think the way that they do. In a future lesson it would be useful for you to teach students how to construct open-ended questions.

Here are some examples of open-ended questions which you might ask in this activity to generate a rich variety of student responses. Choose the questions which you think are the best ones for your students.

Open-ended questions

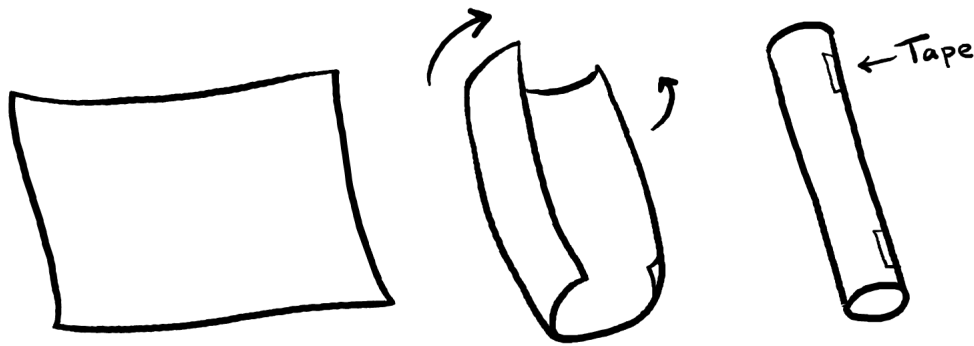
These can be written by the teacher on the board or put on prompt cards.

1. Why do you think that?
2. How did you first become curious about...?
3. What in particular are you curious about?
4. Tell me more about...
5. Describe how your curiosity makes you feel.

By sharing your curiosity and asking the students to discuss what they are curious about in their life outside the classroom you are also demonstrating to the students the concept of **multiple perspectives**. The ability to look at problems from multiple perspectives is a key element of creativity.

Those who are truly curious about something often look at it from a range of perspectives in order to deepen their curiosity, knowledge and understanding.

You will be able to give students examples of this during the discussion – for example one student might be curious about food because of how it tastes – another student might be curious about food because it can be prepared in many different ways. Another student might be curious about using different ingredients when preparing something to eat.



Step-by-Step Activity:

1. Explain to the students that you will be asking them to demonstrate their curiosity in their learning environment by using **The Cylinder of Curiosity**. Show each student how to make a cylinder of paper with a diameter of around 4cm. Tape to make a telescope or microscope.
2. Ask the students to look at something up close or far away and ask the children to think about the following questions.
 1. What surprises you?
 2. What makes you curious?
 3. What makes you wonder?
 4. If you change your perspective by looking closer or further away, how does this change what you see?



3. It is important that you listen to their responses carefully and give a positive response to what they produce. If you need more information from a student, this is an opportunity for you to use your open-ended questioning. For example, **“Why did that surprise you?”** **“What did you see that made you curious?”**

4. Another important aspect of curiosity is being able to show information in the format which best meets the needs of the child. In this case you can ask the students to either draw what they see, write a description about what they see, or verbally explain to you what they see in a story.



5. Finish this exercise by asking students to move around the classroom looking at the work that everyone has created. Encourage the students to ask questions of each other. Re-introduce the concept of multiple perspectives as the students will have observed things from many different points of view.
6. Finally, build a summary of the students' thoughts and observations. Thank the students for demonstrating a wide range of curiosity and wonder. Think about how you as a teacher could teach with more curiosity in the future.

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Please also remember to fill out a brief survey of your thoughts before and after the Creativity Through Curiosity activity, you can access it here:

<https://corporate.bic.com/en-US/commitments/global-education-week>

We value your opinions as they give us an insight into how teachers around the world reflect and respond to creative teaching and learning experiences. This will also allow the BIC Foundation to continue improving the activities and training programs for educators around the world.



A note from the creators of this guide



Creative Actions is proud to partner with the BIC Foundation for Education's Global Education Week as educational content creators. Pioneers in pragmatic creativity in education, we conduct and utilize cutting-edge research to enhance the creative capabilities of teachers and students globally. We empower educators by leveraging their curriculum expertise and offering evidence-based teaching strategies adaptable to any classroom, leading to improved student and teacher outcomes! Our book *Creative Actions, Embedding Creative Competencies in Every Classroom* is available on our website creativeactions.com.au.

Human creativity is our most vital resource. The HundrEd organization of Finland recognizes Creative Actions' resources as innovative educational tools, Adobe Education acknowledges us as international experts in creativity in education. We hope you have a positively engaging and creative experience during Global Education Week and beyond!

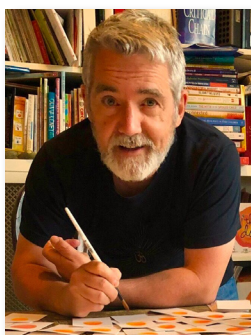
– **Dr. Tim Patston, Researcher and Consultant in Creativity, Creative Actions**



Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) are delighted to be a part of Global Education Week in partnership with the BIC Foundation. Since 2008 we have been creating, researching, developing, and collaborating with organizations across the globe in our dedication to unlock the creative learning potential of children and young people, their teachers, and more recently school leaders. CCE is recognized by Harvard's Global Education Innovation Initiative as one of 50 organizations delivering an education that is engaging, powerful, rigorous, and relevant to the 21st century.

We know that the deliberate practice of creative thinking can be transformational for students and their teachers, so enjoy these resources as a starting point and let us know how you go!

– **Nia Richards, Director, CCE, creativitycultureeducation.org**



I'm delighted to connect with the BIC Foundation and its team as they support the cultivation of positive, purposeful creativity around the world. These efforts help amplify the work we're doing with International Dot Day, the global celebration of creativity, courage, and community. I am confident that this activity guide will provide educators with helpful resources to protect, nurture, and celebrate the power of curiosity in the development of students' creativity.

– **Peter H. Reynolds, Creativity Champion & Best-Selling Author/Illustrator (*The Dot, Ish, Sky Color*) reynoldstlc.org**

To learn more about the organizations that created this guide, please click here:

<https://corporate.bic.com/en-US/commitments/global-education-week>