



Curiosity

a building block for creativity

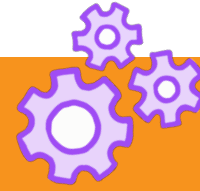


Activity Guide for Classroom Creativity

for Global
Education Week

Secondary Edition
Ages 11-18

The Building International Creativity Resource Series



Welcome!

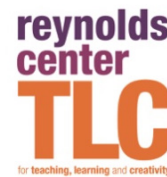
BIC is committed to improving learning conditions for students worldwide.

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: Curiosity in the Curriculum

Curiosity as a Driver of Creativity

Curiosity is the attitude which begins the journey towards true creative competency. Students who are curious become more engaged in the subject, which leads to feelings of motivation and the desire to learn more about the subject. Creativity begins with attitudes, such as open-mindedness, resilience, and, most importantly, curiosity. These attitudes lead to engagement in the building of the knowledge and skills in the subject and thus an improvement in academic outcomes.

Here are some examples of how teachers from a range of countries in a range of subjects have taught curiosity to their students.

1. A mathematics teacher in China gave students a math problem which could be solved in a number of different ways. They asked students to use their curiosity to explore how many different ways they could solve the problem.



2. An art teacher in Oman asked students to use their curiosity and describe how an object might look if it was created as an artwork in different materials

3. A science teacher in Greece asked students to use their curiosity to answer why they thought the color of the sky might be determined by the way in which light is scattered



4. A language teacher in India asked students to be curious about what type of language they use in their family at meal times and how language varied between families

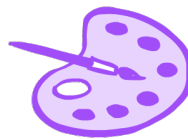
5. A geography teacher in Zimbabwe asked students to be curious as to how the geography of their town impacted the spread of Covid 19
6. STEM teachers in Chile, Colombia and Mexico are asking students to be curious about evidence for climate change in their urban and natural environments



Step-by-Step Activity

In this learning experience you will demonstrate how you as a teacher experience curiosity and demonstrate that to your students. Think of a topic you are teaching in the next few weeks which might be taught using curiosity. What makes you curious about this topic? What might the students be curious about?

1. To begin this activity, 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).



2. Here are some tips which will help to make this exercise successful:

- a. By demonstrating to the students that you are curious, they will feel safe to ask questions about what provokes their curiosity
- b. By sharing your curiosity and asking the students to discuss what they are curious about in the subject topic, 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.



3. The next step is to explain why you chose to teach this subject and what elements of the subject and the chosen topic made you curious. Ask your students what makes them curious in the topic they are studying.

4. 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.

5. **Open-ended questions** (they could be written by the teacher on the board or put on prompt cards).
 - a. **Why do you think that?**
 - b. **How did you become curious about...?**
 - c. **What in particular are you curious about?**
 - d. **Tell me more about...**
 - e. **Describe how your curiosity makes you feel.**
 - f. **How did you first become curious about...?**

Encourage the students to ask you open-ended questions, such as how and when you discovered the passion for your subject or why a particular aspect of the subject sparks your curiosity and interest.

6. When the students are offering their responses be patient and genuinely interested in how they present the information. Encourage them to give you more information by asking open ended questions such as “what makes you think that?” or “Why do you think you might be curious about that particular thing?”. Use open-ended questions to find out what students might be curious about in this topic. Students could create examples of their own open-ended questions to put up on the walls to remind them of what they were wondering. These could use images as well as text to deepen understanding.



7. In secondary schools, students are frequently asked to write their responses. In this exercise offer the students some agency – encourage them to respond with a drawing or by making an object, as well as writing down a response of their thoughts and feelings, or speaking to the class, or other members of their group, about their feelings of curiosity and wonder.
8. **Collaboration** is another key skill when it comes to creativity. Collate the student responses, either through a photograph, a mind map on the board, or some other form of visual representation. Have a class discussion about which elements of the topic students were most curious about and which students were curious about some aspects of the topic in a unique way. Discuss with students the idea that curiosity is very personal.



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!

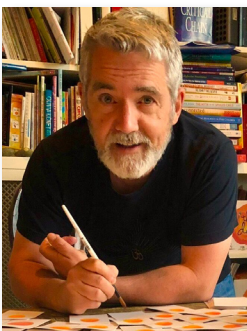
– **Dr. Tim Patston, Researcher and Consultant in Creativity, Creative Actions**



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>