



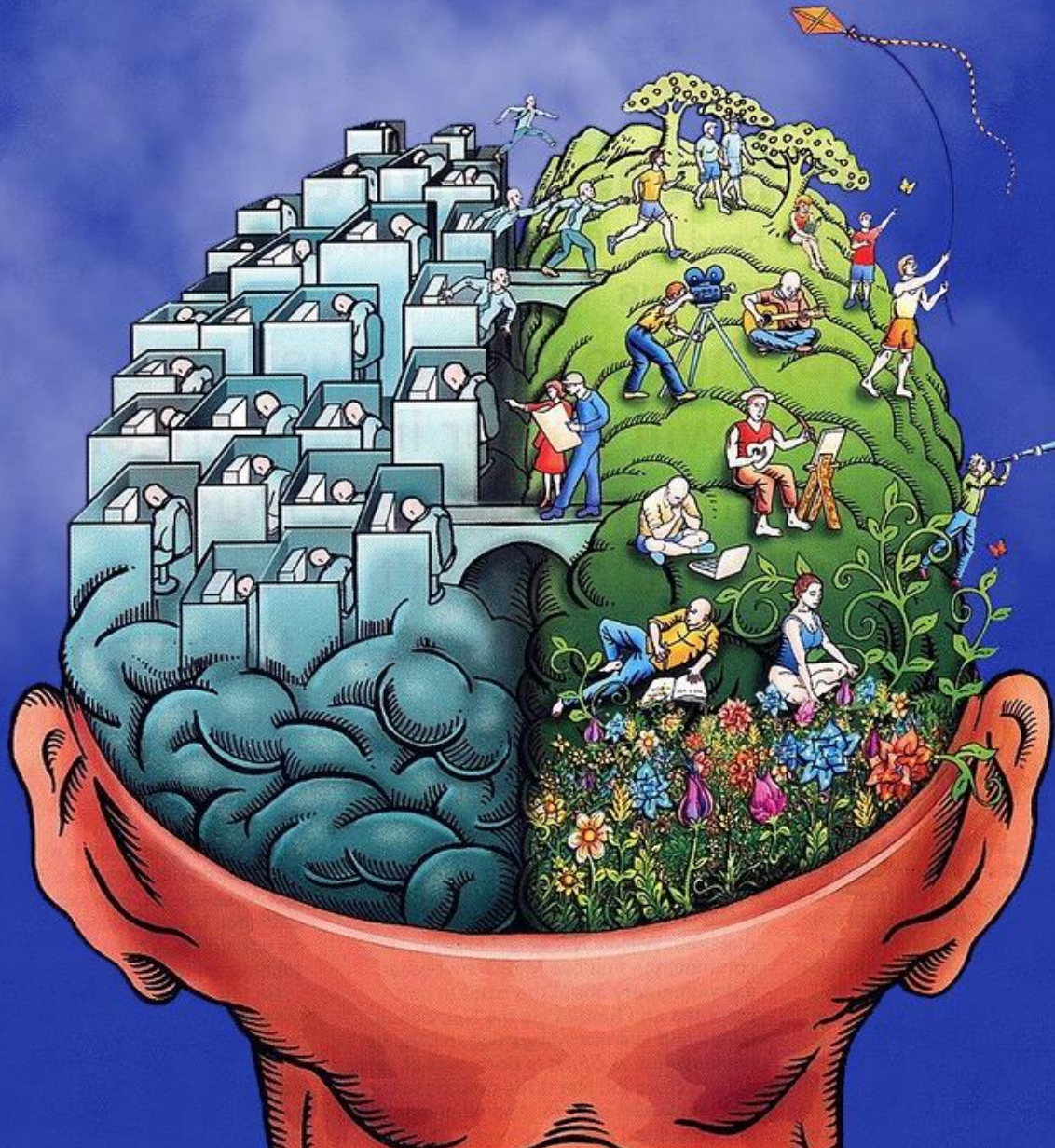
Beacon Education

Supporting Christian schooling worldwide

Creative Thinking Skills

What is creativity?

- We all have the ability to think creatively...
- to come up with ideas, solve problems, to use lateral thinking
- to look for new and different ways of doing things
- To generate outcomes that are original and of value



Creativity is the
ability to produce
new ideas
by joining independent
or dissimilar
thoughts.

Where does creativity come from?

- God is the ultimate creator.
- His wisdom and knowledge are available to us.
- He can give us the best ideas to do great things for Him.
- He can give us the best ideas to solve problems.

Why are creative thinking skills necessary?

- Trains students in becoming more creative
- Trains students to solve problems
- Helps students to become independent and think for themselves
- Helps students to become leaders of tomorrow, inventors or people with business initiatives

Flexibility

- When children start to think laterally they become more flexible.
- But all flexible thoughts and ideas must measure up to a Biblical world view.
- Therefore we have to make sure our new ideas are compatible with Godly thinking.

“My ways are not your ways, my thoughts are not your thoughts”

Characteristics of a creative person

- Memory for facts
- Memory for detail
- Independent
- Flexible

- Thinks about things; reflective
- Has many ideas
- Can develop and improve upon an idea
- Comes up with new ideas

- Persistent
- Curious
- Imaginative
- A problem solver
- Likes to experiment

What hinders creativity?

- A classroom where pupils work for long periods of time with little active learning.
- No opportunity to ask questions and find out answers for themselves.

Where does creativity flourish?

Creativity thrives where there is time to:

- explore, experiment and generate ideas.
- show imagination and originality
- judge the value of what they have done
- ask questions
- represent ideas in different ways – visually, physically and verbally

Difference between Creative and Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking

- When a person analyses the information and makes a judgement.
- Is the information true?
- Is the source of the information reliable?

Difference between Creative and Critical Thinking

Creative Thinking

- Is when a person thinks 'laterally', or 'thinks outside the box'. It is when a person thinks creatively to solve a problem.
- Both Critical Thinking and Creative Thinking are important

Examples from the *Beacon Media* Creative Thinking Skills

Topic: The Senses

Linked to: “God is Creator”

A thinking challenge:

The answer is “our senses”.

Give 5 questions.

Topic: Healthy Food

Linked to: “God is Provider”; “God is Wise”

A thinking challenge:

- Think of a healthy food that most children do not like.
- Think of 3 ways to make the food taste better, but still healthy.

Topic: Being a helper

Linked to: “God is a Servant”

A thinking challenge:

- What if people did not help each other?
- Give 3 things that might happen.

20 Thinking skills

From Tony Ryans “Thinking Keys”

- You can create topic-based thinking skills using the following ideas....

1. Thinking in the opposite direction

- e.g. Name 10 things you cannot clean

2. What if

- e.g. What if the price of petrol was immediately doubled.

3. Disadvantages and improvements

- e.g. What are the disadvantages of an umbrella?
- How could you improve the design?

4. The combination

- List the attributes of 2 objects that are totally different, and then combine them.
- e.g. create an invention that combines a phone and a car.

5. The BAR think ladder

- Draw an object
- Make it **B**igger
- **A**dd something.
- **R**eplace something.

6. Alphabet acrostic

e.g. JOY

- Jesus first
- Others next
- Yourself last

7. Variations

- How many ways can you...
- e.g. catch a fish

8. The doodle

- Start with a squiggle
- Make it into something



9. The Prediction

- Predict how schools will operate in 20 years time.

10. Different uses

- Find 10 uses for plastic water bottles.

11. Making the impossible possible

- e.g. How could hunger and poverty be eliminated in all African nations?

12. Things in common

- Decide upon 2 objects which would generally have nothing in common, and try to outline some points they have in common.

e.g. The Pacific Ocean and the Grand Canyon

- Both tourist attractions.
- Both non-living things.
- Both are deep.

13. The question

- Start with the answer
- E.g. the answer is “Midnight”. Give 3 questions.
 1. When is it 12 hours after midday?
 2. What is another name for “the middle of the night”?
 3. If you go to bed at 8 o’clock, what time is it 4 hours later?

14. Brainstorming

- Think of as many ideas as you can.
- Don't hesitate and consider why they might not be good ideas.
- Simply write them down.

15. Inventions

- e.g. invent an eggshell peeler for a boiled egg.

16. Alternatives

- Take a statement which everyone thinks cannot be questioned. Then try to think of other ways of dealing with the situation.
- e.g. Everyone needs to pay taxes.

17. The construction

- Get students to build something given limited equipment.
- e.g. Build the highest possible self-supporting structure using: 10 straws and 4 rubber bands.

18. Problem solving

- Solve a problem by using 3 totally dissimilar objects.
- Each of the objects cannot be used for its normally intended function.

e.g. You are trying to catch a mouse. You have a broom, a bucket and a tennis balls.

19. Find an alternative way

- e.g. work out 3 different ways to clean your teeth without a toothbrush.

20. A different interpretation

- Describe an unusual situation and then think of some different reasons why this might be happening.

e.g. Your neighbour is making large circles in his backyard by pouring black oil from a can.

A possible reason why: He has discovered some ant holes, and is marking them out so that he can poison the ants.

How to present Creative Thinking Skills

Whole class discussion

- **Disadvantage** – maybe only the most creative or most confident students will give ideas. Some will sit and not contribute.
- **Advantage** – many ideas can be put forward and collected

Individual work exercise

- **Disadvantage** - Some may not have any ideas and may not feel confident
- **Advantage** – can be done any time, even as a quiet activity while the teacher is working with a group.

Note that the teacher must give opportunity for students to share their ideas with the class.

Pairs

- **Disadvantage**

One student may have all the ideas.

- **Advantage**

Working in pairs gives more confidence and is more stimulating.

Group

- **Advantage** - Stimulating, with many ideas flowing. There would need to be a group leader to make sure all are contributing, and a 'scribe'.
- **Disadvantage** - Some may sit back and not contribute, leaving it to others in the group.

Discussion

- How have you used Thinking Skills in your classroom?

Check the updated BM data base for new examples. There is now one set for every theme covered in the curriculum.