



Embracing Your Ideas

Teacher's Guide

Color Inspires Creativity



This guide helps teachers **PREPARE** for the Crayola Creativity Week daily theme *Embracing Your Ideas*. You can print the two downloadable Thinking Sheets: *Play With Ideas* and *Celebrate Ideas* as handouts for students, or you could use the Thinking Sheets as your guide while students work on plain paper. Either way, they can use a variety of art materials you have on hand.



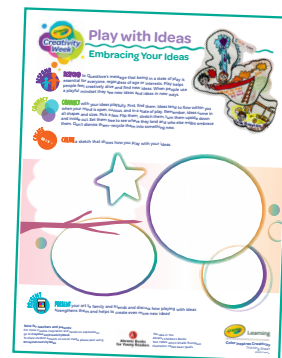
In Questlove's book *The Idea in You* he encourages students to embrace their ideas and find their voice. The enduring insights that Questlove shares are that ideas can be found anywhere and they can be blended, stirred, experimented with, and tossed towards others who can help make them brighter. How do the Creativity Week messages about honoring ideas and playing with them to make them stronger connect to your teaching and learning goals?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES—Students will:

- be inspired by Questlove's story about where ideas come from and what they could do with them,
- understand how feeling creatively alive and being in a state of play are important for generating original ideas,
- play with their ideas—flip them, stretch them, turn them upside down or inside out, and set them free to see where they land or who else might embrace them,
- celebrate their original ideas and love them enough to change them and give them away, and
- envision themselves as creatively confident and future-ready idea generators.



Using the *Play With Ideas* Thinking Sheet, students will **RESPOND** to the message that feeling creatively alive and being in a state of play helps people see ideas in new ways. Ask what characteristics people exhibit when using a playful mindset. Have students reflect on how open-ended play (that is not competitive and does not have rules) can increase the flow of ideas. When have they used a playful mindset to open their minds for increased idea generation?



Students can **CONNECT** their personal experiences involving finding, playing with, and sharing ideas with classmates' experiences. Where do they find inspiration for their original ideas? How do stories, movement, dance, sounds, music, and art spark new ways of thinking? How do behaviors and relationships such as working together and building trust increase the flow of ideas? Why is an idea similar to a seed that must be planted and nurtured before it develops into something tangible?



Ask students to **CREATE** a sketch that *makes their thinking visible*. Remind them that playing with ideas means considering “what if...?” as they flip, turn, stretch, share, combine, reconfigure, recycle, and bounce an idea around, without worrying if it's the right one. Encourage them to sketch an idea they had that grew or improved as they played with it.



As students **PRESENT** their sketches, ask them to explain the creative process. What was the original idea that they played with? How did it evolve as they playfully explored it? Encourage them to provide playful suggestions for others' ideas and consider additional possibilities as ideas merge, morph, and expand.



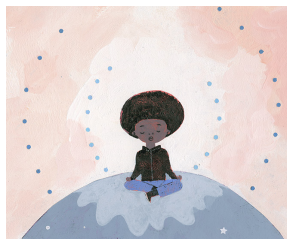
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Using the ***Celebrate Ideas*** Thinking Sheet, students will **RESPOND** to the message that their ideas should be celebrated and that honoring originality helps foster new and more fully developed ideas. One of the ways to support idea generation is to reduce distractions and focus on being calm and comfortable.



Ask students to find a place where they can stand or sit comfortably, relax their body, close their eyes, and look inward. They might imagine they are rooted in the ground like a tree. Or they might imagine themselves floating in outer space, high above the distractions of daily life. Ask them to focus on an opportunity or a challenge and invite ideas to enter their mind that will address this situation.



As students focus on the challenge or opportunity, encourage them to **CONNECT** how and why these ideas should be celebrated. They will name the ideas and identify what makes each of them strong. Then they will select several ideas to illustrate as a way to embrace and remember them.



Ask students to **CREATE** a sketch, inspired by Sean Qualls' illustrations, that shows themselves in the center, relaxing in their personal space, with several of their ideas floating around them. As they sketch each idea, ask them to include a name so it is easier to embrace, remember, and share.



An important way of celebrating an idea is to share it and invite others to help it grow. As students **PRESENT** their art to classmates, have them describe the illustrated ideas and welcome suggestions that celebrate and support those ideas. After the class has finished their presentations, ask students how generating and celebrating ideas prepares them to be future-ready. Why does the world need more original thought, and why are students crucial to the future of invention and innovation?



After students have completed the ***Embracing Your Ideas*** activities, discuss the **LEARNING OBJECTIVES** with them. Ask students to **REFLECT** on their ability to find and playfully develop ideas in school, after school, and at home. Why is exploring many possible solutions and celebrating many ideas more helpful than trying to find one single correct answer—especially when examining new opportunities and challenges?

Note for teachers and parents:

For more creative inspiration and hands-on explorations

go to Crayola.com/CreativityWeek

To share student artwork on social media please post using

#CrayolaCreativityWeek



Learning

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