

# Introduction

These activities are most definitely not for everyone. If you are the sort of person who likes a straightforward 'yes-or-no' question, then perhaps you should read no further. Still here? Then hopefully there's more to you than meets the eye (just kidding).

**Brilliant Activities to Stimulate Creative Thinking** delivers something a bit special; a fun cerebral workout that reaches parts of the brain that ordinary everyday considerations generally do not. It provides a wealth of varied and thought-provoking activities that encourage the reader to contemplate the gaps between the familiar. By entertaining new possibilities and exploring alternative perspectives, children enjoy expressing the riches of their imagination. **Brilliant Activities to Stimulate Creative Thinking** is designed to help children reach their Personal Best, and exercise their full potential.

The book consists of five broadly overlapping 'brain workouts':



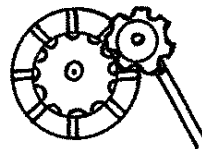
Brain gain



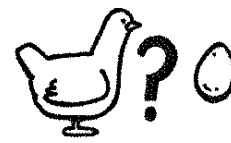
Quick draw



Movers and shakers



Create and make



Chicken and egg

Each workout contains a wide variety of exercises that stimulate readers to think creatively and encourages children to explore different ways of expressing new ideas more clearly. Those familiar with Bloom's Taxonomy will recognize that **Brilliant Activities to Stimulate Creative Thinking** facilitates the three higher order levels of thinking skills: analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

- **Analysis** necessitates understanding the attributes of something so that the component parts may be studied separately and in relation to one another. Asking pupils to compare and contrast, categorize and/or recognize inference, opinions and motives helps to develop analytical thinking.
- **Synthesis** requires children to create a novel or original thought, idea or product. All the activities we call 'creative thinking' give pupils experience with synthesis. Also, when pupils take bits and pieces of several theories or combine ideas from different sources to create an original perspective or idea, they are thinking at a synthesis level.
- **Evaluation** encourages children to judge and consider their analysis. Utilizing these three capabilities helps to ensure children are fully challenged, meeting the needs of those identified as gifted and talented. A categorical list of the activities is available at the back of the book.

Thinking differently, thinking again and thinking one-step-ahead require mental agility and the capacity to 'dig deeper'. Without such attributes, development is limited to a superficial

understanding. **Brain gain challenges** (analysis and evaluation) sustain concentration, encouraging focus for longer periods in the quest to make sense. By creating just the right amount of dissonance, children become acclimatized to the feeling of deciphering, and increase their thought-processing stamina.

Of course for some of us 'seeing is believing'. The ability to visualize a particular concept or scenario can help to clarify understanding: bringing the relevant parameters in to sharper conscious focus. **Quick draw activities** (synthesis and analysis) develop this association by first prompting, then realizing, suggested mental pictures – extracting the 'image' from 'imagination'. They help the reader to literally draw their own conclusions.

Life on the whole is a collaborative experience for most. Interacting with others helps us to explore and further our understanding. Effectively sharing and responding to the ideas and opinions of others is essential for meaningful communication. **Movers and shakers challenges** (evaluation, analysis and synthesis) provide the food for collaborative thought – cultivating the skills necessary for accessing shared wisdom.

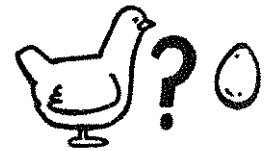
Whilst thoughts often translate in to action, conversely action can inform thinking. **Create and make activities** (evaluation and synthesis) are designed to lift ideas off the page, encouraging children to derive three-dimensional solutions and adjust their rationale in the process. By exploring 'hands on' possibilities, thinkers inform theoretical supposition with practical realization.

**Chicken and egg challenges** (analysis, synthesis and evaluation) embrace the old adage about there being 'more questions than answers'. Generating responses to some of those imponderables encourages children to think creatively as well as carefully. Progress can result from the ability to embrace a new perspective – responding unconventionally to the conventional. Chicken and egg challenges breed the confidence to think differently, and celebrate thought-provoking solutions.

In addition to these challenges, interspersed throughout the book is a little extra **Food for thought**. These tasks require the reader to decipher a variety of encoded dishes, some more familiar than others. These side orders provide a light alternative to the main course; something to chew over for a while before returning to the workout.

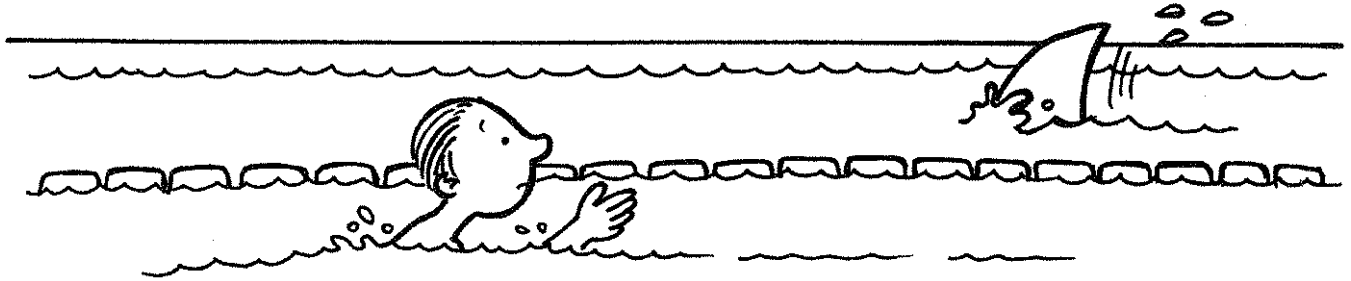
**Brilliant Activities to Stimulate Creative Thinking** recognizes that exercise should be fun. These brain workouts encourage creative ideas, independent thinking and originality. The activities foster a healthy interest in an alternative view of life – helping children to think for themselves and develop their own perspective. With a healthy mind, **Brilliant Activities to Stimulate Creative Thinking** gives children the confidence to rise to a challenge.

# Creature feature



The Olympic games is perhaps the ultimate goal for sportsmen and women across a wide range of disciplines.

Imagine animals could compete alongside humans; which sports might the various species excel at?



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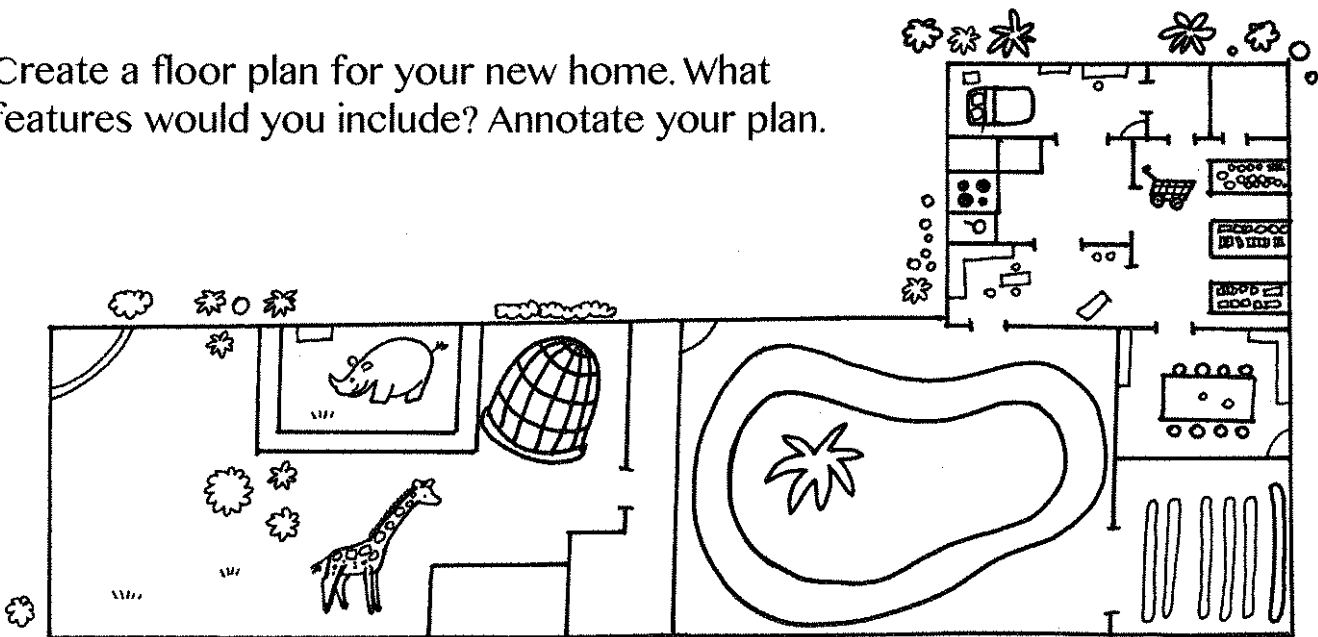
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# Base line



Imagine you were building a luxury mansion and could afford to include everything you desired.

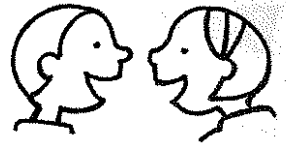
Create a floor plan for your new home. What features would you include? Annotate your plan.



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# Isle of wonder



Consider which three things you would take with you if you were to live on an isolated desert island.

Compare your choices with those of a friend: can you convince them of the validity of your own selection?



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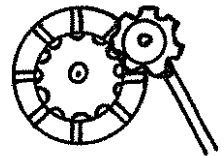
## Stimulate Creative Thinking

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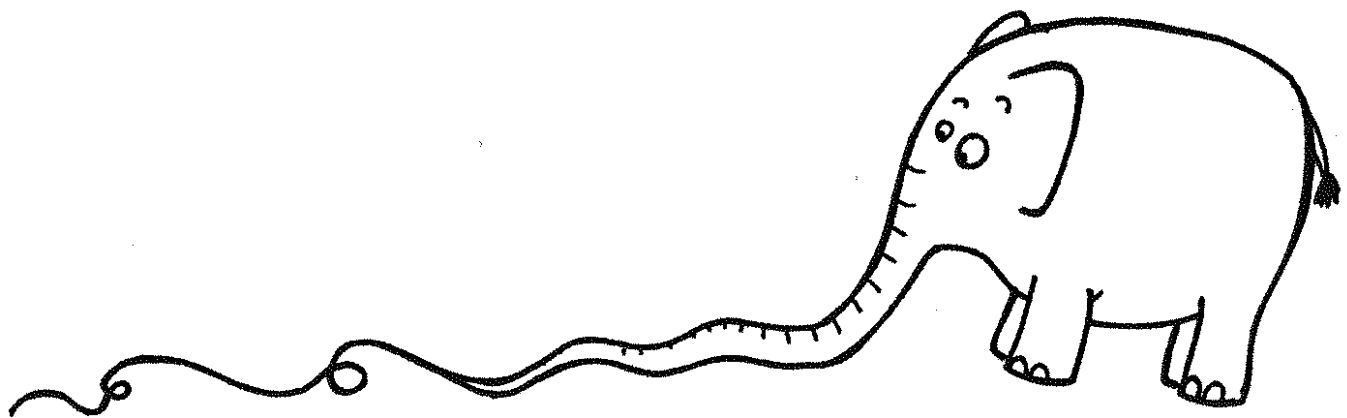
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## String section



Artists sometimes utilize a variety of unusual media to create their masterpieces.

Coil string on to card to create a picture of a favourite animal; can anyone correctly identify your chosen subject?



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## Stimulate Creative Thinking

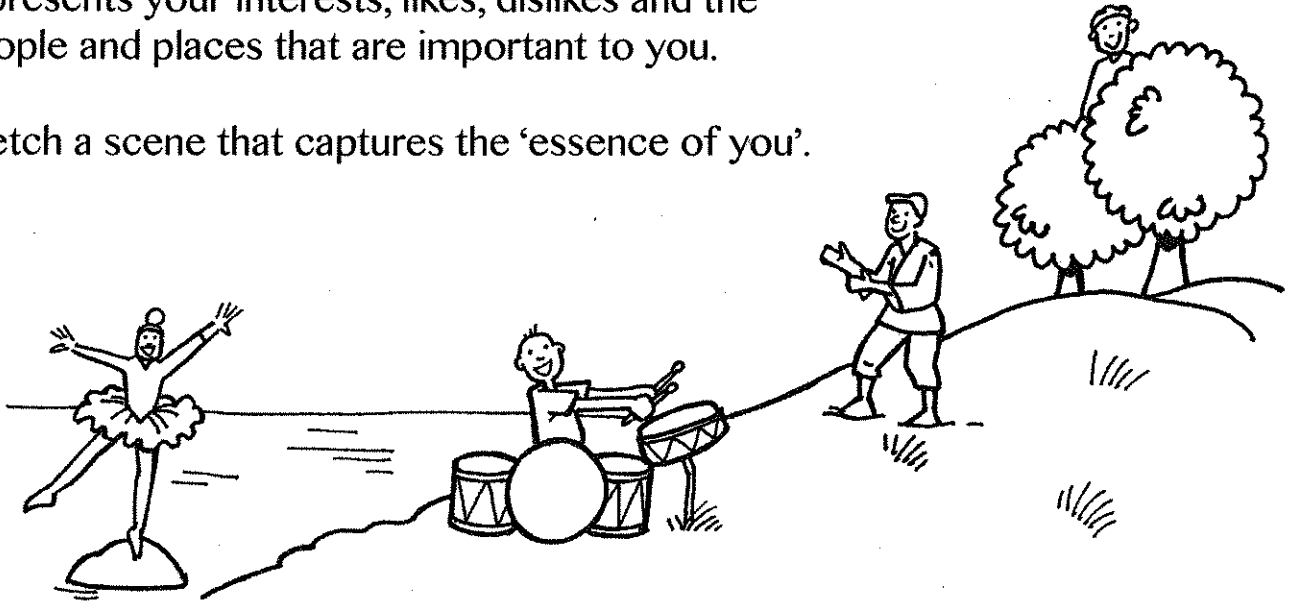
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# Pic-as-ya



They say 'a picture speaks a thousand words'. Imagine someone could capture a snapshot that represents your interests, likes, dislikes and the people and places that are important to you.

Sketch a scene that captures the 'essence of you'.

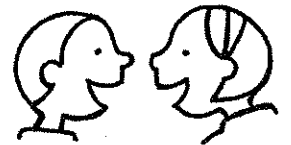


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# Vision express



Some people profess to know what they want to do with the rest of their lives from a relatively young age. Other people take a completely different path to their initial interest and, of course, there are those who just don't have a clue!

Make a list of your friends on one piece of paper and on another devise a list of future occupations that you think would be fitting. Ask someone if they can successfully match the people with your suggested professions.



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