



Hexagonal Thinking





What is Hexagonal Thinking?

Hexagonal Thinking is a tool that uses hexagons for making connections between ideas and topics.

It asks students to think about the details, determine how ideas are connected, and support their conclusions.





Cult of Pedagogy states, “It provides a springboard for a totally creative discussion. When you give a small group of students a deck of hexagons and ask them to connect them however they choose, every group will come up with a different web for different reasons. Along the way they’ll hopefully question each other and dig deep into the concepts on the cards, arguing about which idea connects more to an important concept and which example deserves one of those precious six sides.”






Benefits of Hexagonal Thinking

It is a great way to begin a healthy discussion in your classroom.

It gives a glimpse into student thinking and understanding.

Hexagonal Thinking has its way of breaking big problems into smaller parts.

It is a fun way to make connections within and across disciplines.

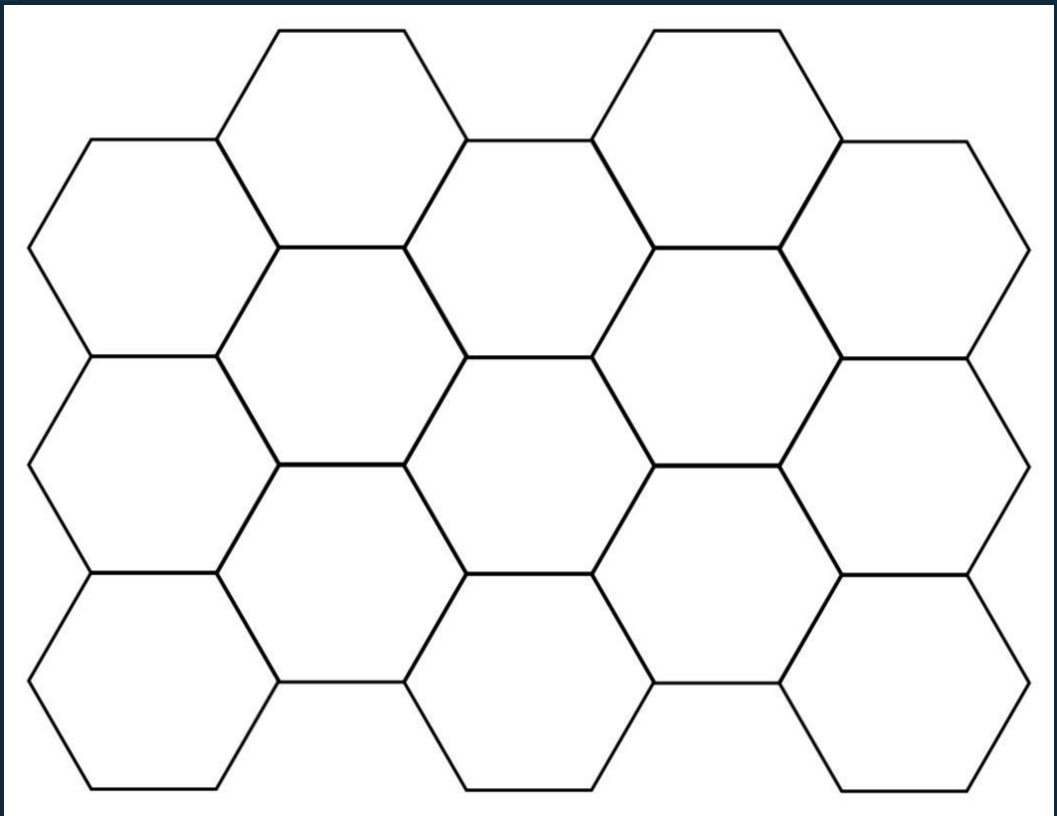




1

Generate Hexagons

The first step is to find a general idea you would like students to consider and then generate a list of key terms, phrases, images, or models.





2

Make Connections

The next step is to provide the hexagons to a small group of students to consider the ideas provided and determine how to connect them.



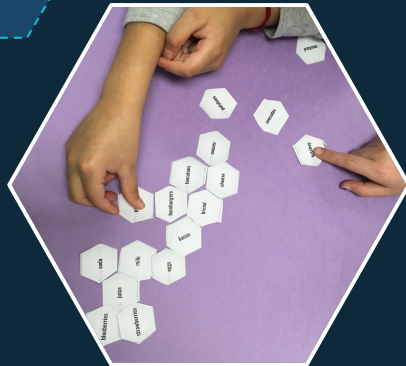
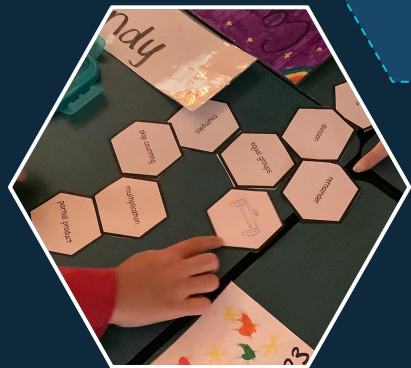
Each side they touch must be connected in some way.



Encourage connections that aren't always linear.



The power is in the discussions occurring during this process.





Let the thinking begin!

05:00



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of several hexagons of varying shades of blue and cyan. Some hexagons contain icons: a lightbulb, a thumbs-up, a smartphone, a magnifying glass, and a gear. A network of nodes and lines is also visible. The number '3' is centered in a large, light blue hexagon.

3

Explain Connections

The next step is for students to explain some or all of the connections created. This can be done using arrows or numbers, verbally or in writing.



ANNOTATIONS Name: Joe + Ayoub

Analyze your hexagonal thinking map. Which connections do you think were the most important? Write the items you connected on the lines of the first of each box, then explain your reasoning for each connection.

CONNECTION #1: peppers, cucumbers, & strawberries
 Peppers, cucumbers, and strawberries are all healthy foods. They also all have seeds.



Add 2-3 Connections

05:00





Gallery Walk Reflection

As you walk, compare your team's connections with those you are viewing.

1. How are your connections similar and different to the other group?
2. What connections surprised you?
3. Which connections are confusing?
4. Which hexagons had the most connections?
The least?





Gallery Walk Debrief





Things to Remember

- ◇ Use any content or combination of contents
- ◇ Can include words, phrases, graphics, or models
- ◇ Not all hexagons have to have something on them! Provide blanks to allow students to fill in ideas they think are missing.
- ◇ Different groups will make different connections...and that's ok!

As long as students are discussing and explaining how they connected the ideas, it is ok to get creative with what is included on the hexagons.

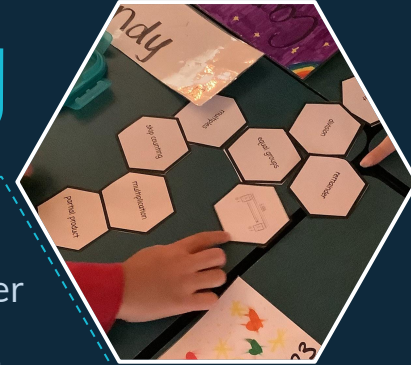


Differentiated Hexagonal Thinking Ideas

Start backwards!
Give students a
completed
thinking map and
challenge them
to explain the
connections.



Incorporate other
thinking tools
into hexagonal
thinking decks,
like Depth &
Complexity.



Provide students
a topic, book, or
unit and have
them generate a
hexagonal
thinking deck.





How do you plan to implement this tool into your classroom?

