

Love's Creative SPARKS!

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Look around your community. What kinds of challenges do you see that keep your community from being the very best that it can be? Pick a challenge you see (beyond the important but typical things like removing trash and recycling), and do some problem-solving about ways you could address the challenge. How can you help "bridge" the gap, literally or figuratively, between what you see and what you want to see? This is the first of 4 lessons that will help teachers and students consider how the theme of Bridges can help us explore the creative process and our own innovative potential.

LESSON 1: WHAT IS A BRIDGE?

Overarching Concept: *Form follows function*

The idea that the shape of an object should be based upon its intended function

Think about a bridge. What comes to mind first? How can the concept of a bridge, virtual or literal, spark our imaginations, drive our creative engines, and stimulate innovative ideas, interpretations, or products? The following activities will help you practice with the notion of what a bridge is and how it can help you begin to consider a community challenge you want to address.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Make a list of all of the kinds of bridges you can think of or learn about. Real bridges, figurative bridges (example: burning bridges), bridges in famous stories, etc. Which ones are your favorites and why?
2. Find out more about how bridges are built. How do they stay up? Practice virtually at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/bridge>
3. Build paper bridges in teams. See which team can create the longest paper bridge (using only paper and tape)
4. Create your own bridge. What's it made of? Is it real or imaginary? What does it connect?

Create a representation using technology, poetry, music, whatever you want to get the idea of your bridge "across." Share it with your classmates and your family.

Extension ideas - famous bridges: who built them, when, where, why