



NATURE DESIGN CHALLENGE

ROLE-PLAY



Use the **Think Differently** Success Skill to design a T-shirt.



Career Cluster
Arts and Technology



Success Skill
Think Differently



Estimated Activity Time
40–60 mins



Group Size
Individuals, pairs, or group

Materials

- **Yellowstone National Park** (projection or printout)
- **Grand Canyon National Park** (projection or printout)
- **T-Shirt Outline** (1 printout per child)
- **T-Shirt Examples** (projection or printout)
- **Planning Your Design** (1 handout per child)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Reusable, re-sealable zipper storage bags (1 bag per child and educator)
- Materials from nature (e.g., leaves, flowers, twigs, sticks, etc.)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Nature magazine cutouts (optional)

Prepare Ahead of Time

Note: This activity requires children to spend time outdoors to collect materials from nature. If children are not able to do this, the educator can collect materials from outside and provide them to children. Or, the educator can provide nature magazines as inspiration instead of going outside.

- Print materials.
- Collect materials outside from nature, such as leaves, flowers, twigs and sticks.
 - Use some of the materials to create your example T-shirt design on the **T-Shirt Outline**.
 - (Optional) Set aside some materials for children to use in case they run out of supplies.

Think Differently Definition

Try new things and find creative ways to solve a problem.
Learn from your mistakes and make changes.

10 MIN: INTRODUCTION

1. Have a brief discussion with children about their favorite clothing pieces.

Ask:

- *"What colors are on your favorite piece of clothing? Do they have cartoon characters or fun patterns?"*
- *"What kinds of textures do your favorite clothing pieces have? Do they feel heavy or light?"*

2. **Say,** *"We all have favorite pieces of clothing that make us feel good. A Fashion Designer was involved in making choices about what colors, patterns, and textures to add to your favorite clothing. A Fashion Designer is someone who makes and designs clothing. Fashion Designers need to come up with a lot of different ideas to help their clothing stand out from others. In this activity, you will get to practice being a Fashion Designer by making your own T-shirt design! An important Success Skill that Fashion Designers use to do their designs is Think Differently. This is because they have to find new and creative ways to design clothing."*

"Fashion Designers don't get their designs right all the time. Sometimes, they create something that they don't like and then have to be flexible or Think Differently. This means they have options to make changes to what they create: they can try something new, or they can work with what they have."

20 MIN: ROLE-PLAY

3. Display the Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon National Park pictures.

Say, *"Fashion Designers get their inspiration from all kinds of places. Our design challenge will be to create a T-shirt for a national park to use at its gift shop! A national park is a large area with plants and animals that is protected by the government. Many people visit national parks to enjoy their beauty. Some famous national parks include Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon. Their gift shops have things like coffee mugs, calendars, postcards, and T-shirts filled with designs from nature."*

4. Display the blank **T-shirt Outline**. Explain to children that they will spend some time outside exploring nature to find and collect inspiration for their T-shirt designs for the national park gift shop.

Say, *"We will create a T-shirt design for the national park gift shop with materials we can find in nature. Each one of you will have a chance to create your own unique design from the materials you select outside. To create your design, you will need to Think Differently about the materials you use. You will look at the nature materials you select in another way: as fashion design pieces."*

5. Display the **Planning Your Design** handout.

Say, “Before we collect materials from outside, let’s spend a few minutes drawing our ideas on this handout. Think about the types of things you see in nature that you could add to your T-shirt design.”

6. Allow children about 5 minutes to draw their designs. Remind children that they can draw out as many different ideas as they would like.
7. Have a couple of children share out loud what they drew in the **Planning Your Design** handout.
8. Ask children to **Think Differently** about their designs and how they could recreate them using materials from outside.

Say, “Now that you have your design ideas drawn out, let’s **Think Differently** about how we can recreate them. What materials can you collect from nature to make your designs? For example, if I wanted to recreate a sun, what materials from nature could help me make that design?”

9. Have children share out loud some of their ideas about how they could recreate their designs. If children have trouble coming up with ideas, prompt them to think of materials from nature that have the same color or shape. For example:
 - A yellow dandelion could help make the sun.
 - Different leaves could help make a bird.
10. Display your example of the **T-shirt Outline** or display the **T-shirt Examples** if children are stuck with their designs and need help coming up with ideas. Point out the materials in nature you used to design it.
11. Pass out a storage bag to each child so they can collect any materials they find outside. Give children about 10 minutes to collect different materials and store them in their bags.
12. Once children are done collecting materials, they can go back inside and practice placing their materials on different parts of the **T-shirt Outline**. They should not glue or tape anything down during this phase. This is an opportunity for them to see where they want to permanently place materials on their T-shirt.
13. Once children have a general idea of where they want to place their materials from nature on the **T-shirt Outline**, they can color their T-shirt before adding on any glue or tape.
14. Have children glue and tape the materials down. Give them several minutes to work on their designs. Encourage children to **Think Differently** while working on their designs.
15. Have a couple of children share out loud the reasons for their selections.

Ask:

- “What materials from nature did you use to add more color? More texture?”
- “Was your plan when you started the same as when you finished, or did you make changes to your design? Why?”
- “Did you make any mistakes while working on your design? How did you solve them?”

16. Have children place their designs on their work surfaces and then walk around to observe each other's designs.

5 MIN: REFLECTION

17. Have a brief discussion with children about the activity.

Ask:

- *"What Success Skill did you use today?"*
- *"Why is it important for a Fashion Designer to Think Differently?"*
- *"It's important to Think Differently in a lot of careers. What is another career that also uses the Think Differently Success Skill?"*



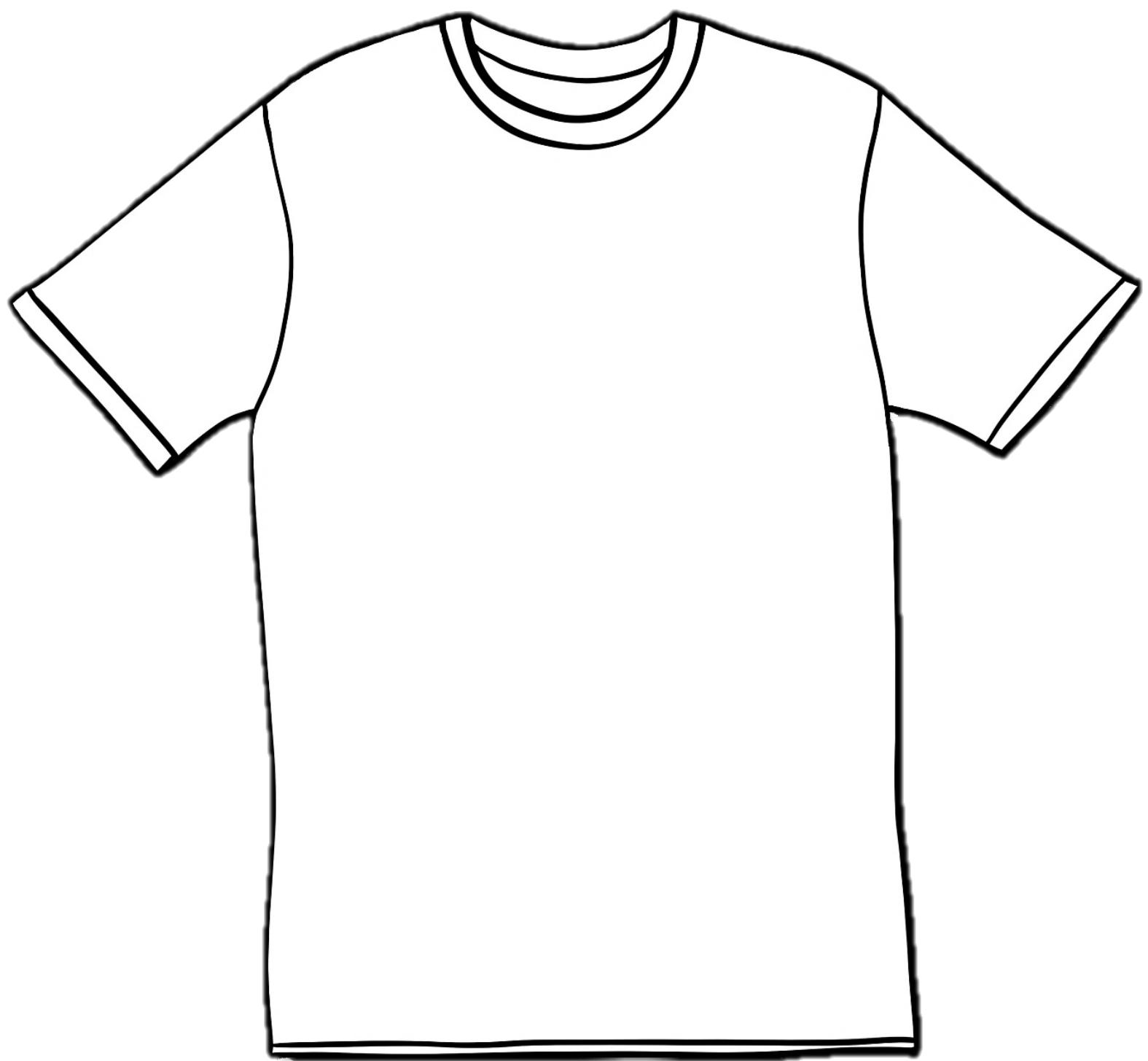
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK



T-SHIRT OUTLINE

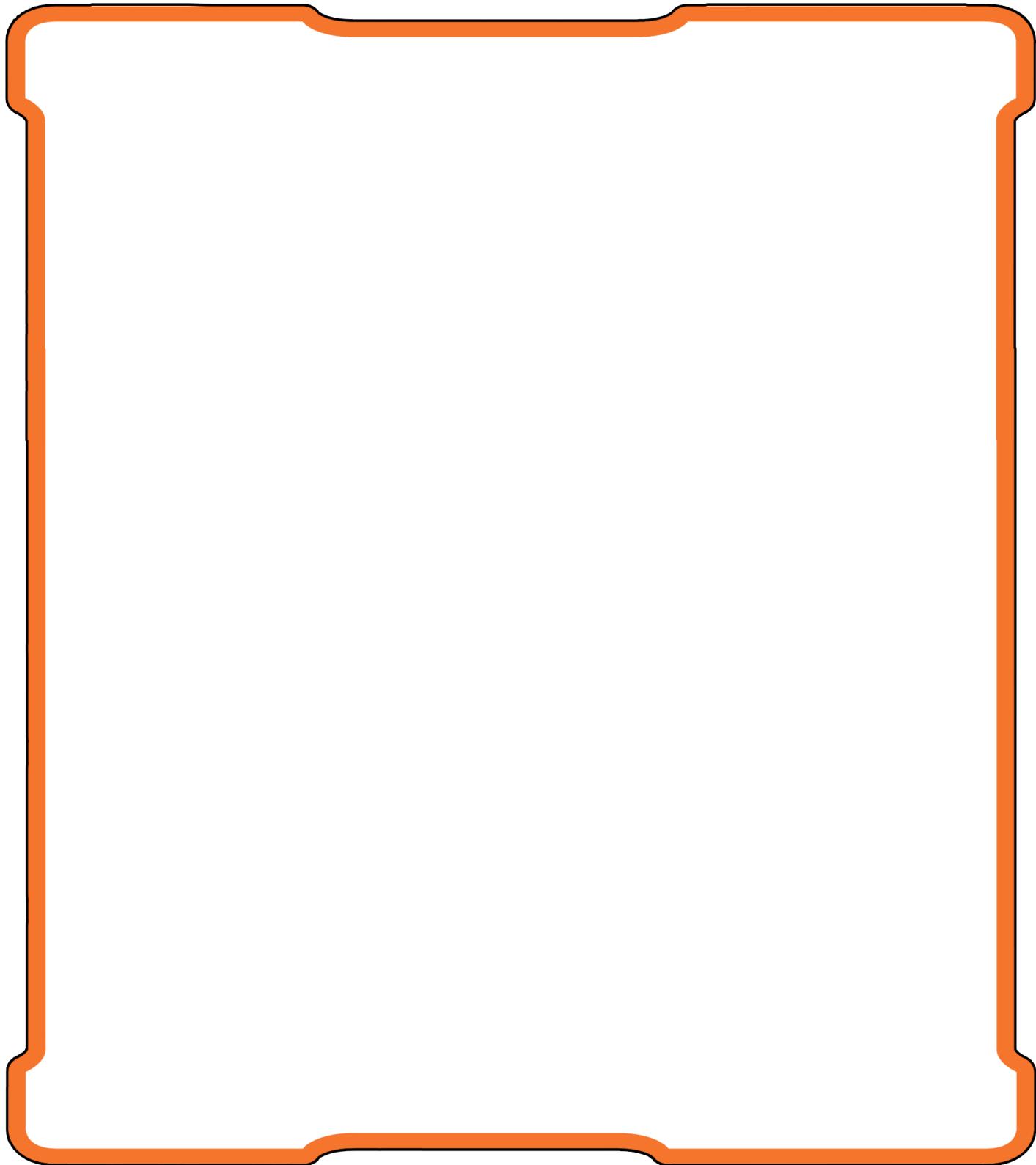


T-SHIRT EXAMPLES



PLANNING YOUR DESIGN

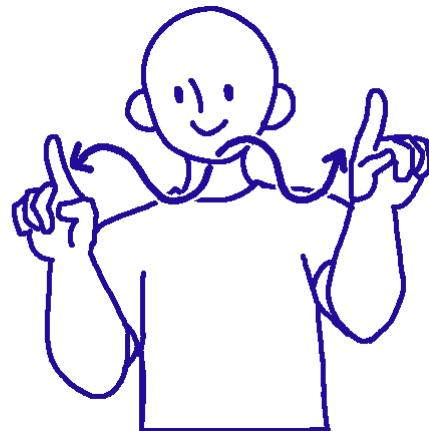
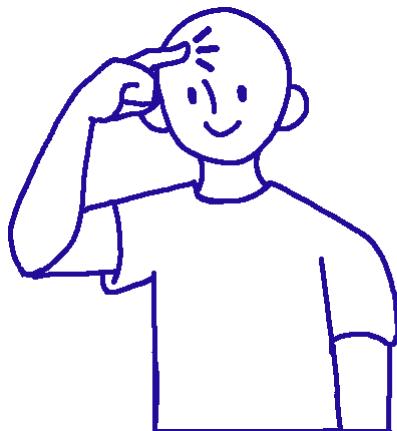
Name _____



THINK DIFFERENTLY ASL SIGN



To help children learn the Success Skill, use the ASL sign each time you say "Think Differently."



1. Form a fist with one hand, leaving your pointer finger up. Touch your temple using your finger.
2. Then, bring both hands in front of your chest, pointer fingers out, and bring them together so that the tips of your fingers are touching.
3. Move your fingers away from each other in opposite directions, tracing opposite arcs with your fingers until your hands are in front of your shoulders.



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