



# 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

### 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 in lieu of going outside.

- Print materials
- Collect materials outside from nature, such as leaves, flowers, twigs/sticks
  - Reserve materials for your own example. Use materials to create your own shirt design.
  - Set aside as extras for children to use in case they run out of supplies (optional).

### Materials

- **Yellowstone National Park Pictures** (1 printout for educator)
- **Grand Canyon National Park Pictures** (1 printout for educator)
- **T-Shirt Outline** (1 printout per child)
- **T-Shirt Example Pictures** (projection or printout)
- **Planning Your Design Handout** (1 printout 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)

### Think Differently ASL Sign:

Each time you say **Think Differently** in this activity, please do the ASL sign:

Form a fist with one hand, leaving your pointer finger up. Touch your temple using your finger. Then bring both hands in front of your chest, forming fists with both hands. Leave both pointer fingers out and bring them together, so that the tips of your fingers are touching. Move your fingers away from each other while moving them up and down repeatedly, until your hands are in front of your shoulders.

## 10 MIN: INTRODUCTION

1. Have a brief discussion with children about their favorite clothing pieces. Ask children what they like about their favorite clothing pieces.
  - *What colors are on your favorite piece of clothing? Do they have cartoon characters or fun patterns?*
  - *What kind 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 that 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 that they have options to make changes to what they create and 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 their 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 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 those 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.
  - *A yellow dandelion could help make the sun.*
  - *Different leaves could help make a bird.*
10. Demonstrate your example of the **T-Shirt Outline** or display the **T-Shirt Example Pictures** 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. 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.
  - *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 desk and have them walk around to observe other designs.

## 5 MIN: REFLECTION

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

Say,

- *"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 **Think Differently**?"*

## SUCCESS SKILLS

Use these words when talking with children. Listen for children to use these words.

Success Skill	Definition
Focus	Pay attention to something, even when distractions happen around you.
Organize	Keep track of different information and belongings and put them in an order that makes sense to you.
Think Differently	Try new things and find creative ways to solve a problem. Learn from your mistakes and make changes.
Remember	Hold new information in your mind to use when you need it.
Feel	Check and show your emotions.



## YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK PICTURES

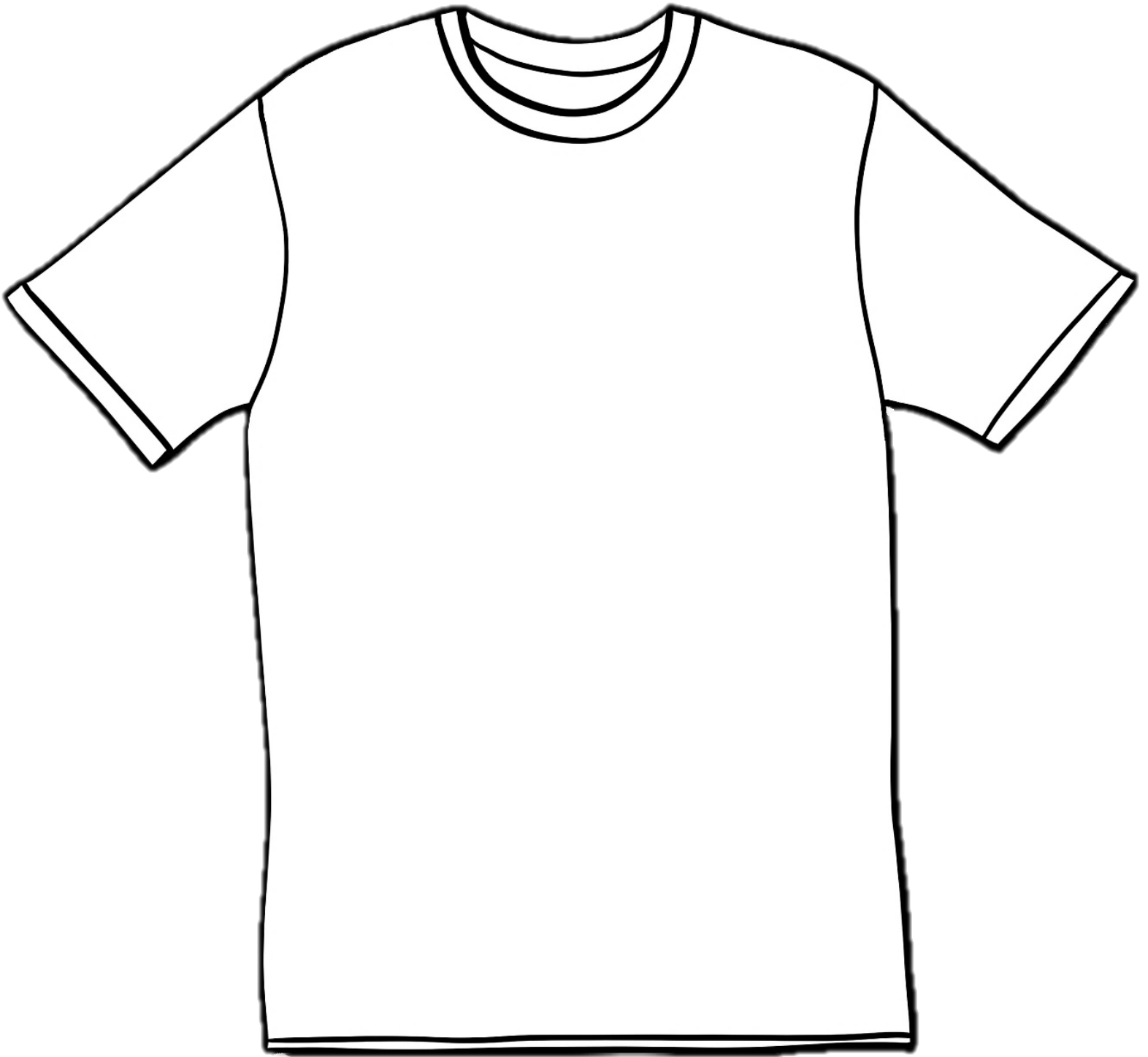




## GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK PICTURE



## T-SHIRT OUTLINE





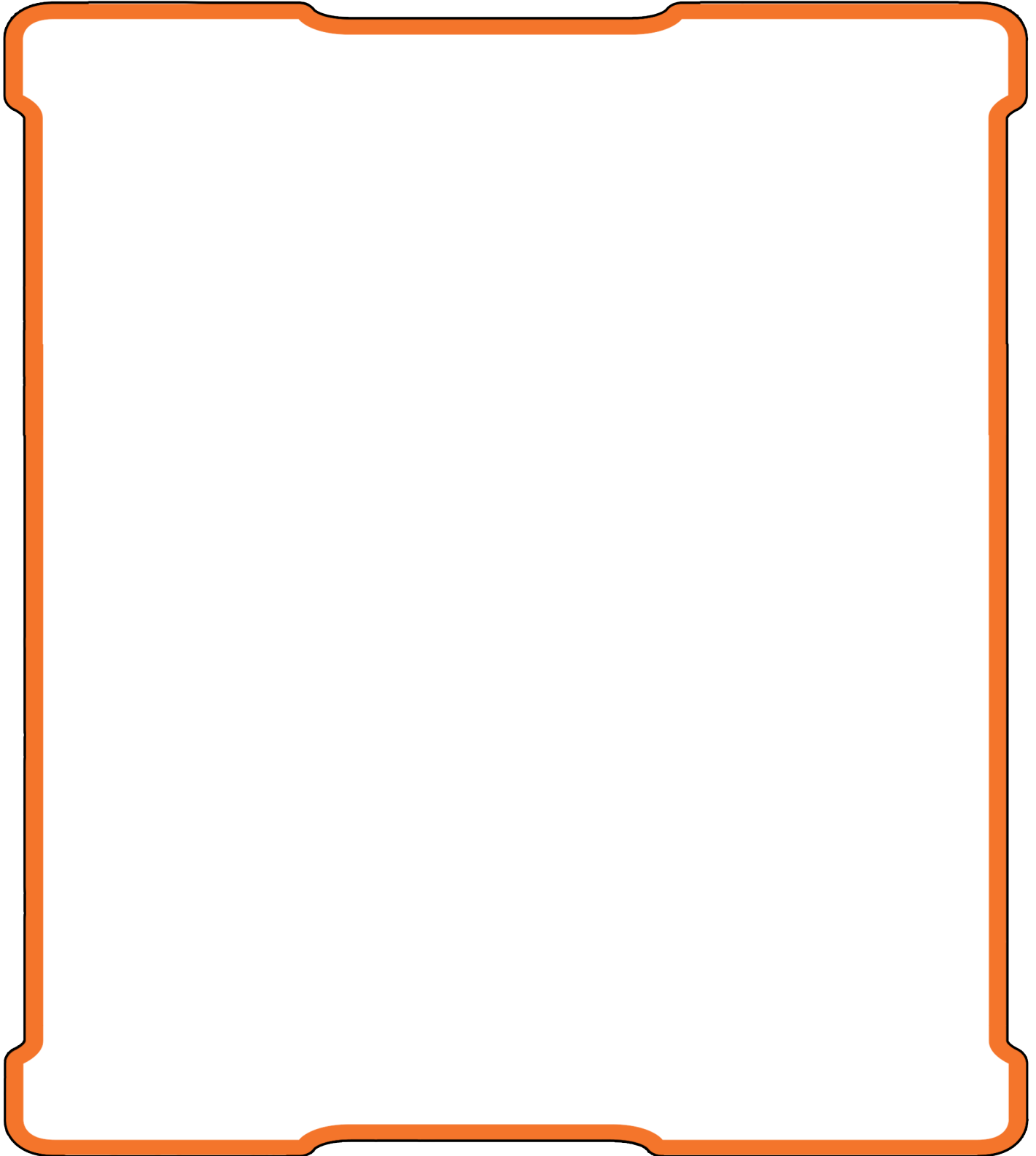
## T-SHIRT EXAMPLE PICTURES





# PLANNING YOUR DESIGN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick orange border and a black outline, designed for drawing or writing. The box has a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance with rounded corners and small notches at the top and bottom edges.