

# IMAGINE THAT

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REFLECTIONS

Maps of earth require turning a sphere into something flat and 2d, which always comes with trade-offs. The final product may be a symbol of what the creator thinks is most important.

What other everyday designs or cultural symbols might reflect the worldview of their maker?

We have a tendency to think we remember things that never actually happened the way we thought.

What are some examples of times when your memory didn't line up with someone else who was there?

Art can have a powerful impact on what we notice or how we think about things.

What's a piece of art – whose creator you may not even know – that made a serious impact on you?

Despite research that suggests it's an important problem solving tool, imagination is rarely taught as a serious or academic skill in school.

Can you think of a time that you were discouraged from using your imagination in the classroom or at work?

Art and science have been connected throughout most of human history, yet many people think of themselves as either being or not being an “art person”, a “science person”, or a “math person”.

Have you ever put yourself in these kinds of categories? Can you think of any examples of what you like or how you think that breaks the labels?

Science or speculative fiction can give us a sandbox to imagine different scenarios and work through ethics, values, and possible systems.

Imagine a scenario where plants suddenly start to speak in a way that we can easily understand. What do you think your first conversations with them would be like?

“Worldbuilding” is a common term in many storytelling spaces. It’s a process that many authors and game makers use to construct a unique and comprehensive world for their characters to live in.

Just to practice getting your imagination in motion, imagine you’re building a new world from scratch. Think about:

- (1) what is the dominant species?
- (2) where does that species live and what does it look like?
- (3) what do they care about?



Imagine a venn diagram with “Art” in one circle and “Science” in the other.

What words (like “exploration” or “inquiry”) would you put in the middle?

The people serving in the US Congress all come from very similar backgrounds, primarily law, business, and military.

How do you think government might change if a wider range of professions and skills, including those highly skilled in imagination, were part of it?

Our current school system still looks a lot like the one built for the end of the 19th century.

If you think back to when you were a kid, what you enjoyed, and what you wish you knew as an adult, what subjects would you want prioritized? And what out-of-the-box ways could students learn about them?

Making music is a universal human trait that goes back to at least 35,000 years ago. Music was often used to communicate over long distances, and define rituals.

What was a time that music was able to capture or communicate something that nothing else could?

Our ancestors used jewelry and other personal adornments to reflect their identity. These adornments may have represented membership in a particular group or someone's age, sex, and social status.

What are some ways you use personal adornments to express yourself?

We can take risks in our mind and consider potential consequences – good and bad – without experiencing the latter in reality.

What risks might you explore in the safety of your private thought space?

When a person contemplates the smell and taste of an orange without either seeing or tasting the fruit, they are engaging in imagination.

What favorite smell or taste can you imagine to bring you back to a favorite time or place?

Play is beneficial for people of all ages—it can add joy, relieve stress, and connect you to others and the world around you.

What are some ways you have thought about incorporating play into your daily life that you could do today?