

Cultivating Playful Reflection in “Learning Dens” Workshop

As people are joining, respond in the chat:

What is one thing you’ve done to build community in your (virtual) classroom? How did it go?

Learning Dens

- ★ Weekly virtually classroom that meets with an educator facilitator each week
- ★ Playful and collaborative activities and prompts that students work on together during the session & asynchronously
- ★ Students come away with a collection of artifacts that capture this moment, help expand their definitions of learning and bring them closer to their peers
- ★ Gives educators an additional opportunity to learn about new students while remote

Home

Members

- #Will
- #Raha
- #Grace
- #PK
- #Leslie
- #Liam
- #Louisa
- #YJ

Activities

- [[Timeline Learning Den Activity]]
- [[Past Self Interviews]]
- [[Youtube Playlists]]
- [[Virtual Space Walkthroughs]]
- [[Comic Book Making Activity]]
- [[Our Community Guidelines Page]]

Extra

- [[Things We've Been Looking At Online]]
- [[Games]]

Subjects

- [[Math]]
- [[Science]]
- [[English]]
- [[Social Studies]]

Class Support

- [[Interesting]]

– Timeline Learning Den Activity

February

March

April

May

- May George Floyd murder
- May 21: Grew my own koji on barley to try to make [[miso]]. #PK
- May 25 - Realizing I likely wasn't going to go back to school in the fall #Will
- May 23-24 Oregon to California solo drive home #Grace
- MIT added childcare benefit #Louisa
 - I didn't know this! #Will

Messi leaving

June

- June - National protests for racial justice begin
- June 15: First MIT Open Learning Mental Health Day Off

July

- July 4 Did not see fireworks this year #Grace
- July Malls reopening and then closing in CA #Grace
- MIT took away childcare benefit #Louisa
- July 11 Trump wears mask in public for the first time #PK
- July 5th, I got engaged #Liam

August

- August 1 - Indiana school opens for 1 day and has to immediately shut down
- August 2020 Wildfires #Grace
- August Blackouts
- August 16: Tried some of the miso I made, decided it needed more time. #PK
- August 26: The Milwaukee Brewers host a wildcat strike (Alona

What makes a good Learning Den (Activity)?

Den

- Students can take ownership over the space
- Students feel comfortable contributing to the Den outside of the activities/sessions
- Sessions can turn into hanging out and sharing, or stay structured

Activity

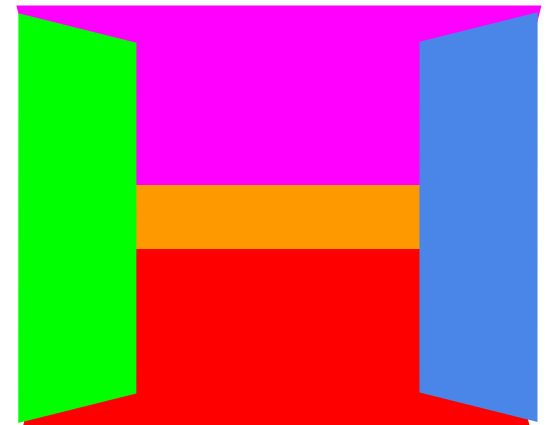
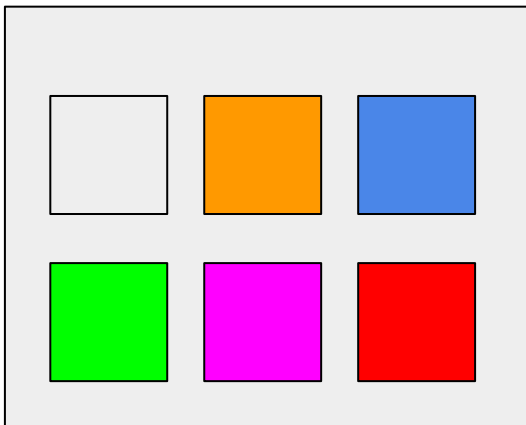
- Students are thinking about each others' perspectives
- Naturally leads into a conversation
- Feels creative!
- Can extend beyond a single session

Outcomes

Learning Den
output as
Folder



Learning Den
output as **Place**



Some Learning Den Activity Ideas

Interview/Conversation with Yourself from Before the Pandemic

- ★ “What advice would you tell your past self before the pandemic began? Without telling yourself about the pandemic, how would you prepare yourself for these months?”

YouTube Playlist-Making

- ★ “What songs helped you get through quarantine? What funny videos did you watch over and over?”
- ★ Students create a playlist of media that helped them through these months: can include songs, videos, podcasts

Virtual Walk-Through

- ★ Students draw out and walk the group through a virtual space that they spent a lot of time in during these past few months

Activity: Collaborative Timeline

- ★ We're going to split you into breakout rooms of ~4
- ★ Think of 4 events (large or small) that that jump out at you as you think back about the months since the pandemic began. Put down things that happened in your personal life, or things that happened in the world!
- ★ Jot down each event as a bullet point on the shared google doc
- ★ Tag your name at the end of each bullet point in your timeline, like this: #Will
- ★ As you're adding things to your group timeline, your group can rearrange the pieces of your timeline so that they're in order! What other memories does this bring to mind?
- ★ We'll meet up as a whole group in 15 minutes and put our small-group timelines together

Whole Group Timeline

Have one representative from each group add your small group's timeline to a timeline for our whole group!

Discussion

- ★ What's one thing that you noticed in the process of making our shared timeline?
- ★ What's one thing you wonder about how this activity might play out with your students?
- ★ What other ideas for activities does this format bring to mind?

Wrap-Up

We're going to host a Learning Den activity brainstorming session later this month!

Interested in learning more? Email Will at: wfreud@mit.edu