

Forest Floors to Ocean shores



Will your imagination change the world?

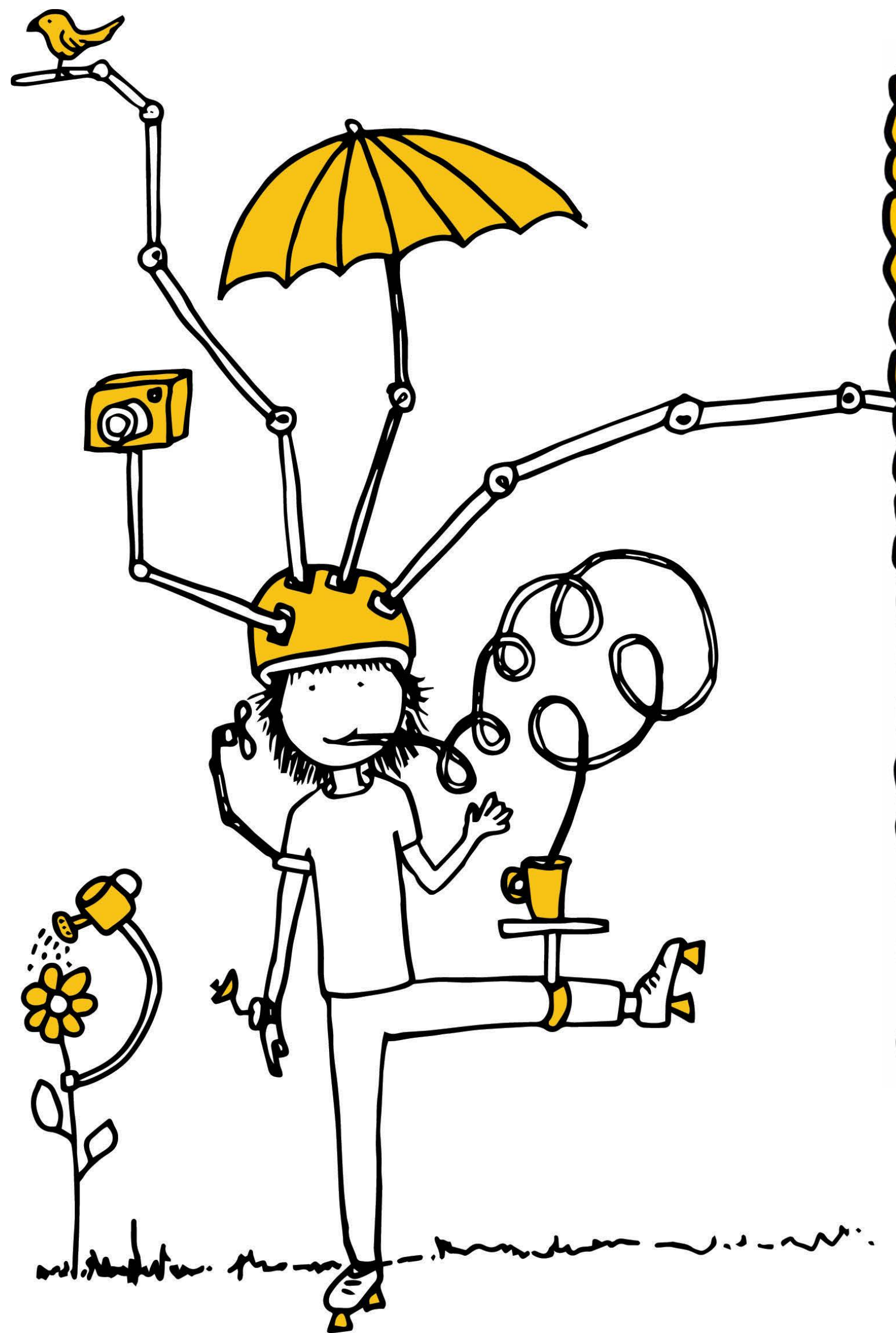
Take part in the Wild Ideas invention challenge!

The Macomb Intermediate School District has been working with Little Inventors since early 2021 to deliver exciting and creative opportunities for young people in Macomb County.

With Little Inventors and our community partners, we are infusing innovation by leveraging children's innate curiosity, honoring their inventiveness, and connecting them with industry professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

This year we bring you the Wild Ideas invention challenge! When humans create inventions inspired by the amazing abilities of animals, it's called biomimicry. But even though animals have incredible superpowers, they don't always have all the answers - sometimes they need a little help solving problems, just like we do!



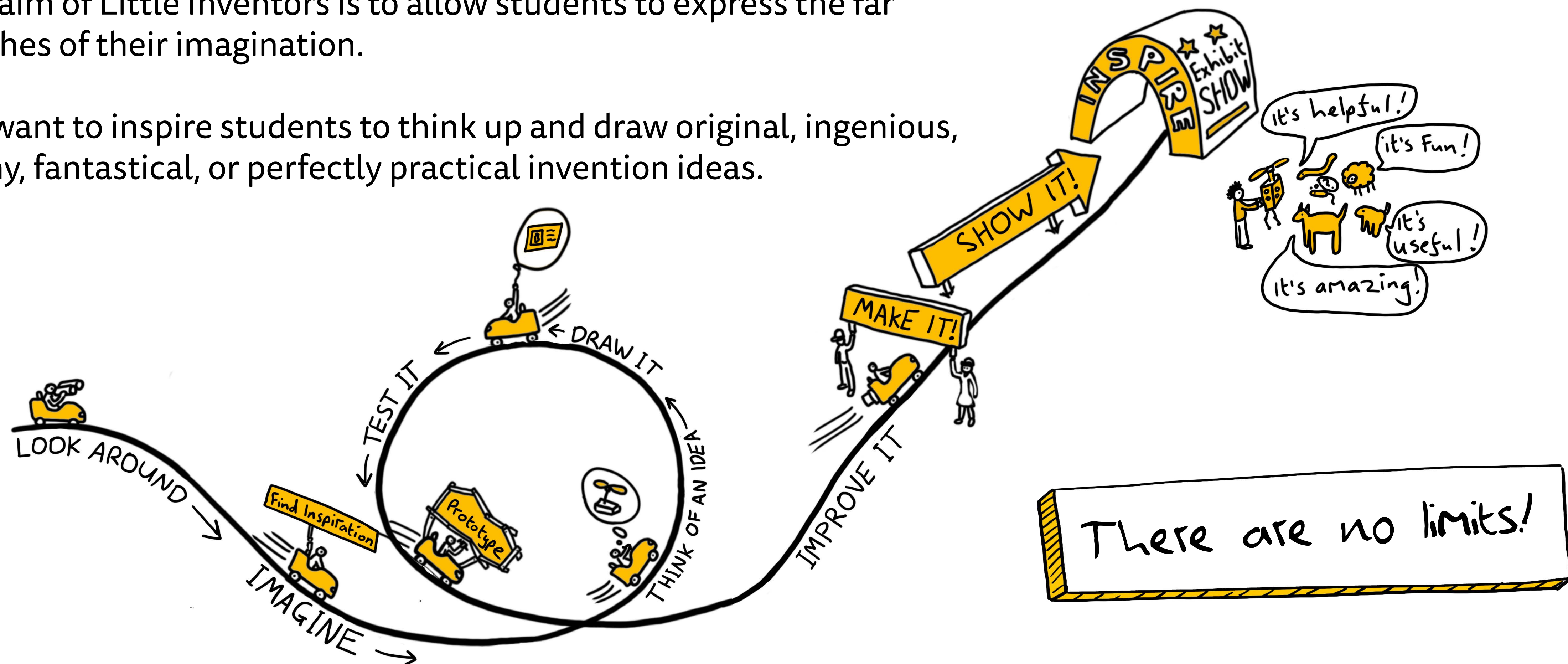


Play the challenge launch video!

What's the aim of the project?

The aim of Little Inventors is to allow students to express the far reaches of their imagination.

We want to inspire students to think up and draw original, ingenious, funny, fantastical, or perfectly practical invention ideas.



What's in it for my students?

Students will be invited to draw and submit their own inventions to appear on the online invention gallery, where they will be reviewed by Little Inventors, MISD and our friends at Detroit Zoo.



Their idea might be chosen as a Little Inventors Team Favorite, turned into an animation, or brought to life by one of our Magnificent Makers!

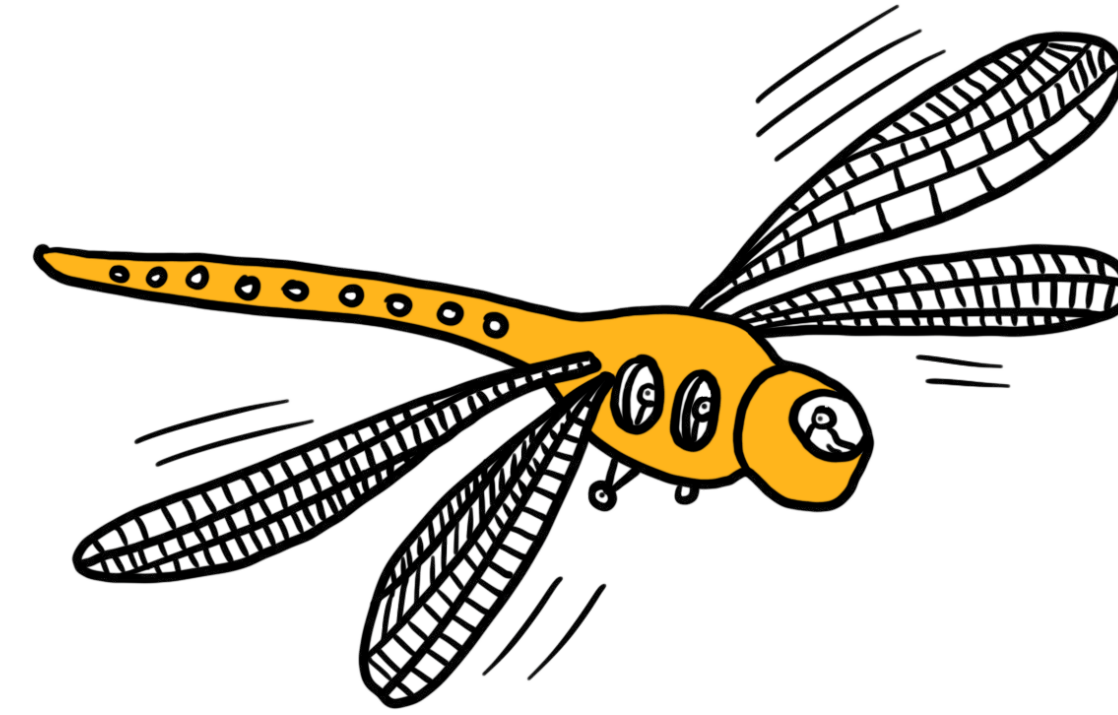


HammoGlow by Ariana, age 10



Brought to life by TARUS Products

Key Project Dates



Challenge
launch

January 19
2026

Challenge
close

March 25
2026

Winner
selection

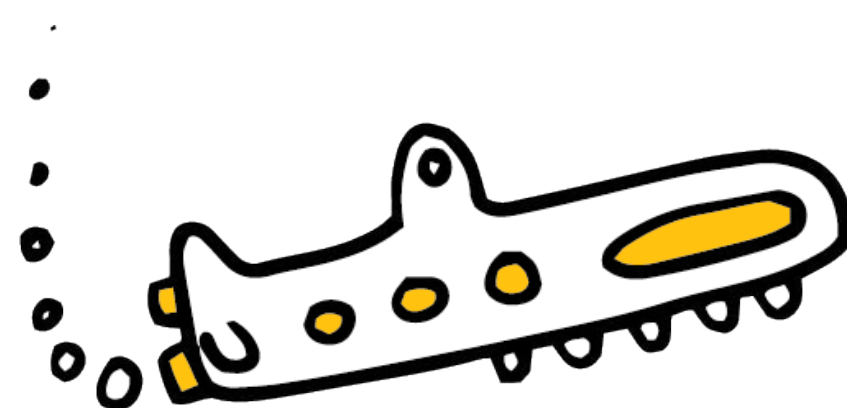
April
2026

Bringing to life
process

April - May
2026

Celebration
event

May 28
2026

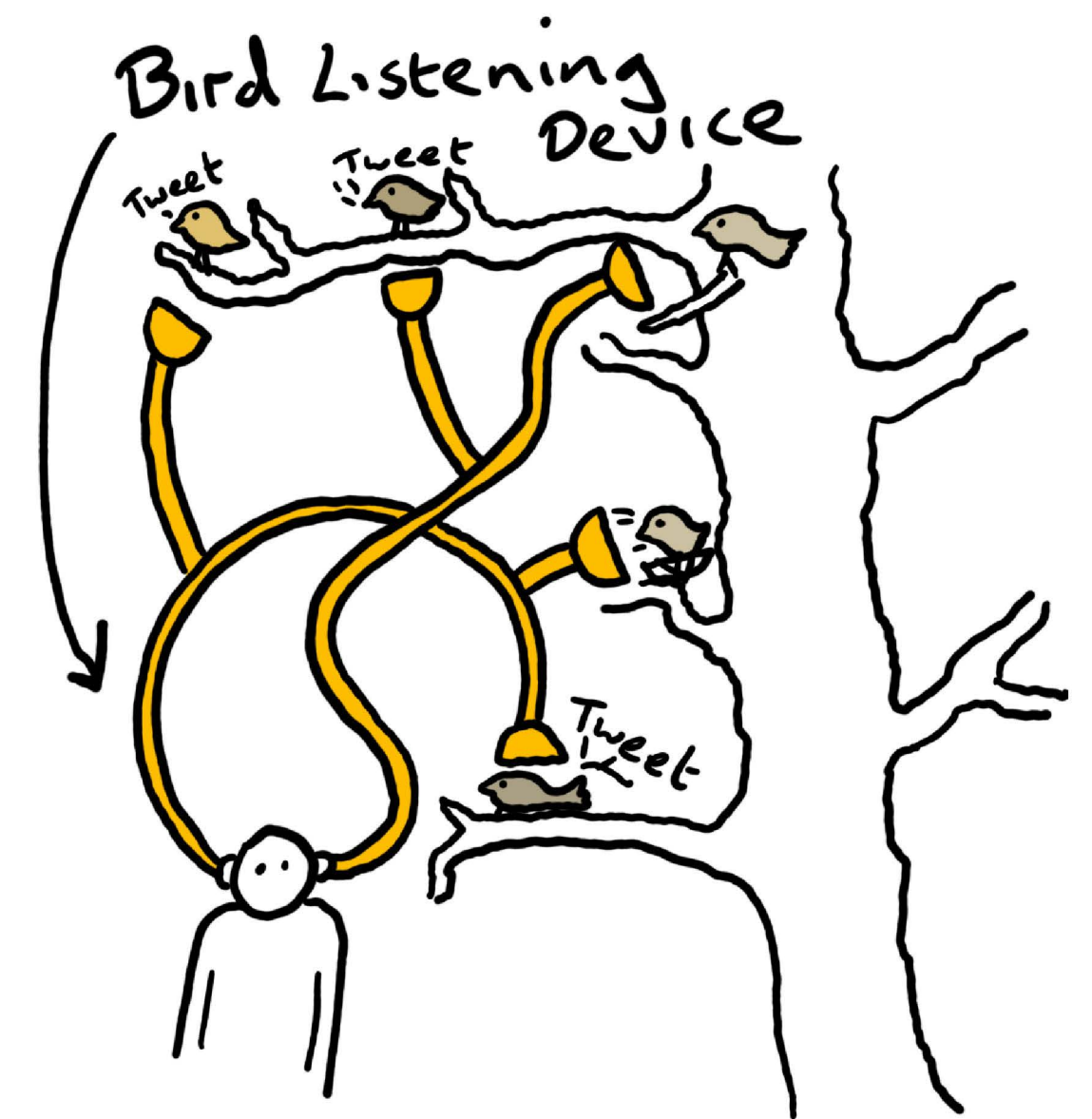
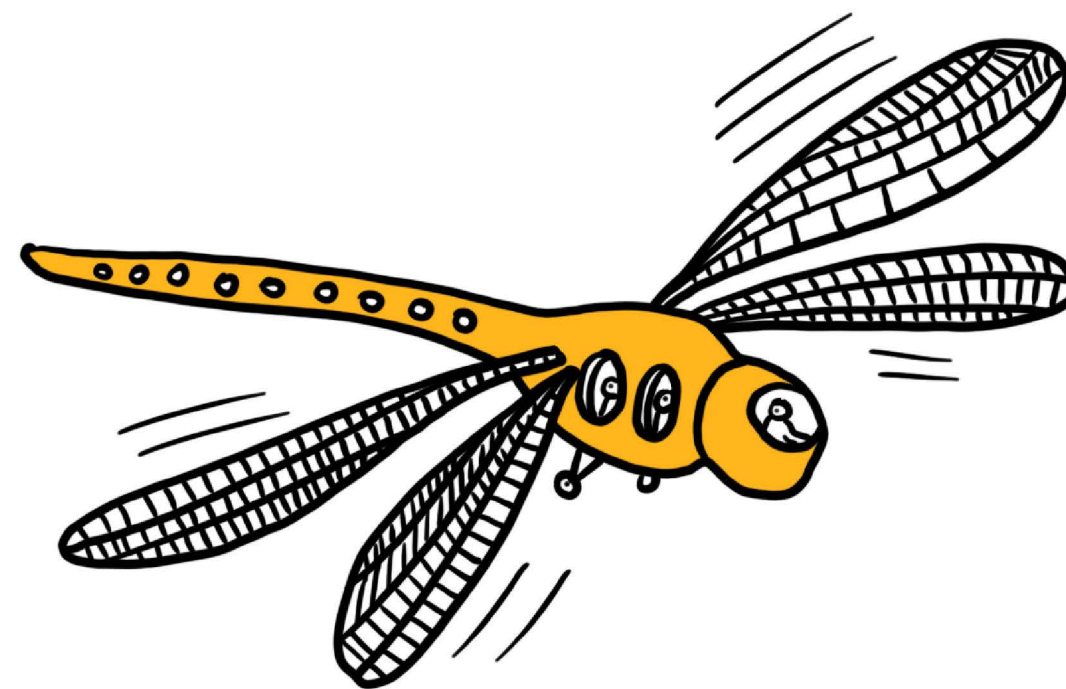


Invention challenge

Invent something inspired by an animal

or

designed to help an animal

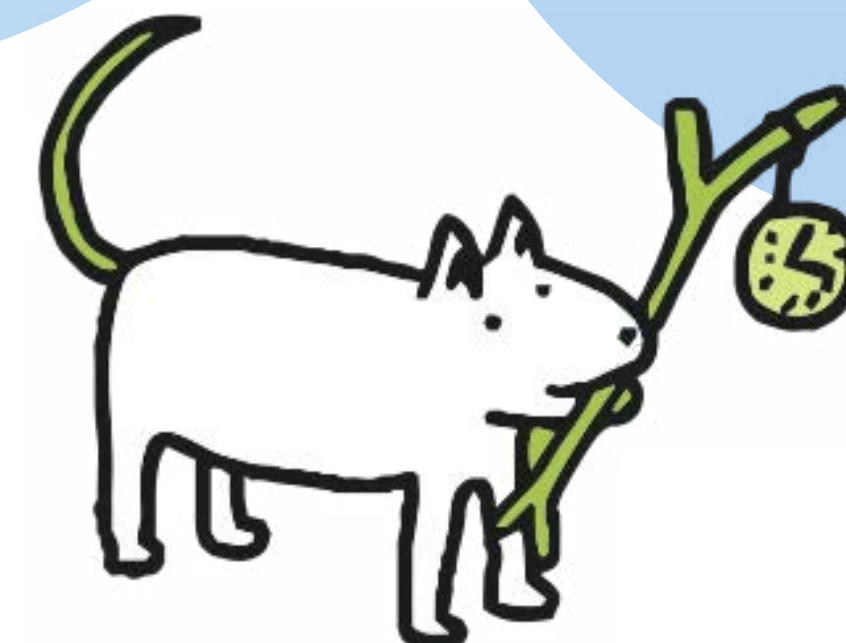


Learning content

Students will explore a world of **animals** through a **creative lens**, covering habitats, food chains, biomimicry and threats. Using the presentations in the resource pack you will introduce them to creative thinking techniques and teach them the content they need to know to come up with their own **brilliant inventions**.

Students will get creative about how they can **invent something inspired by or to help an animal**. The activities will allow students to **gather information** and creative ideas to develop some unique and exciting sparks of inspiration that will guide them on to designing their final invention!

The presentations are also available as **narrated videos** which can be played directly to your students to speed things up or used for yourself to revise the content.



Resource pack checklist



Use this resource pack checklist to make sure you have all of the core materials to deliver the challenge!

All resources are available at misd.littleinventors.org/challenges/wild-ideas

Your lessons and activities can be adapted to suit your specific learning environment and students' needs



Challenge Launch Video ☐

Challenge Presentation *Powerpoint* ☐

Activated Challenge Presentation ☐

Inventor's Log *PDF* ☐

Challenge Cards *PDF* ☐

Take Your Ideas Further *PDF* ☐

Digital teaching resources

The teaching material is divided into 3 parts, but all parts will be found within one powerpoint - 'Challenge Presentation'



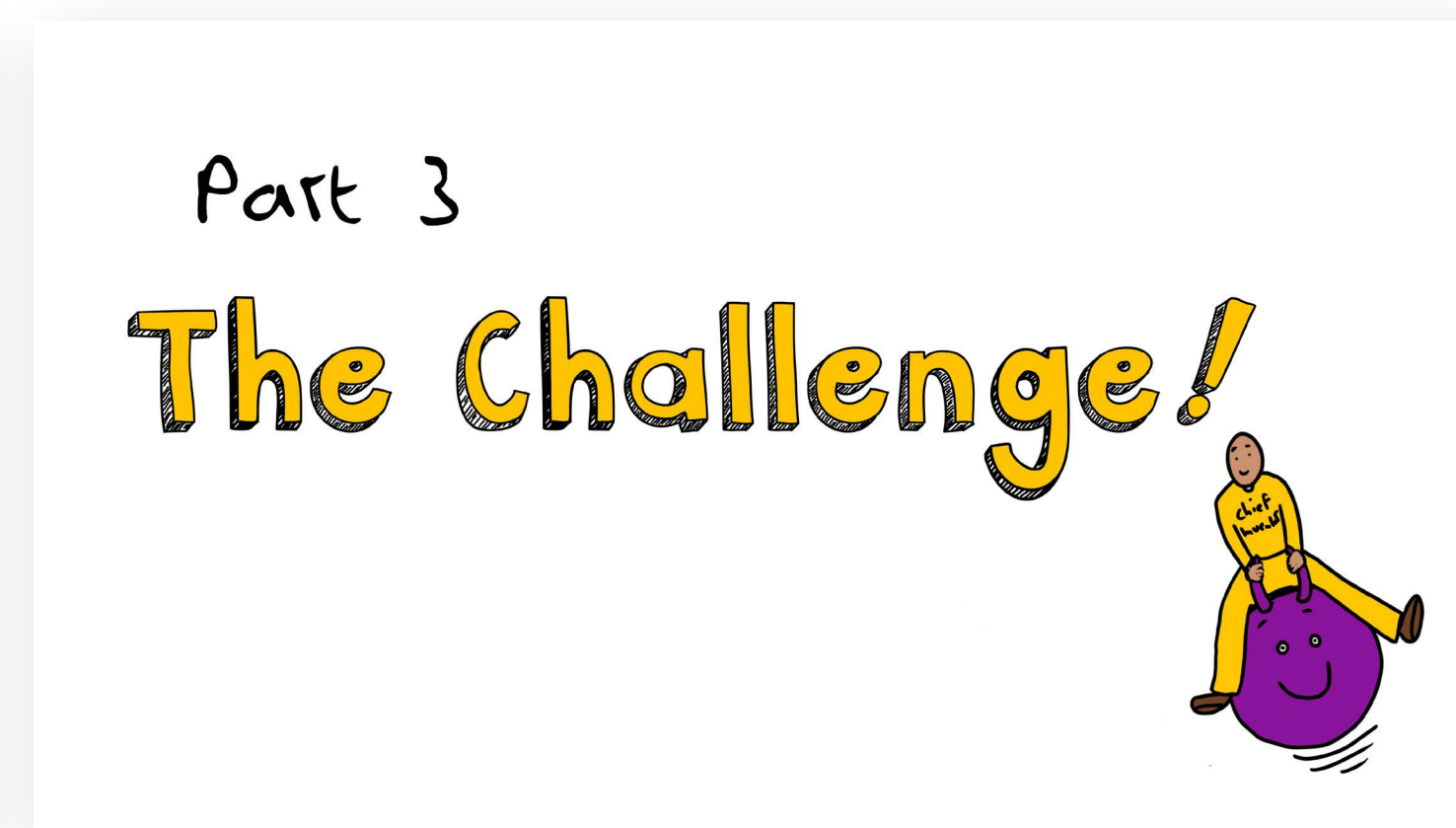
Part 1 Introduction to inventing

45 - 60 mins



Part 2 A world of animals

60 - 90 mins



Part 3 The Challenge

5 - 10 mins

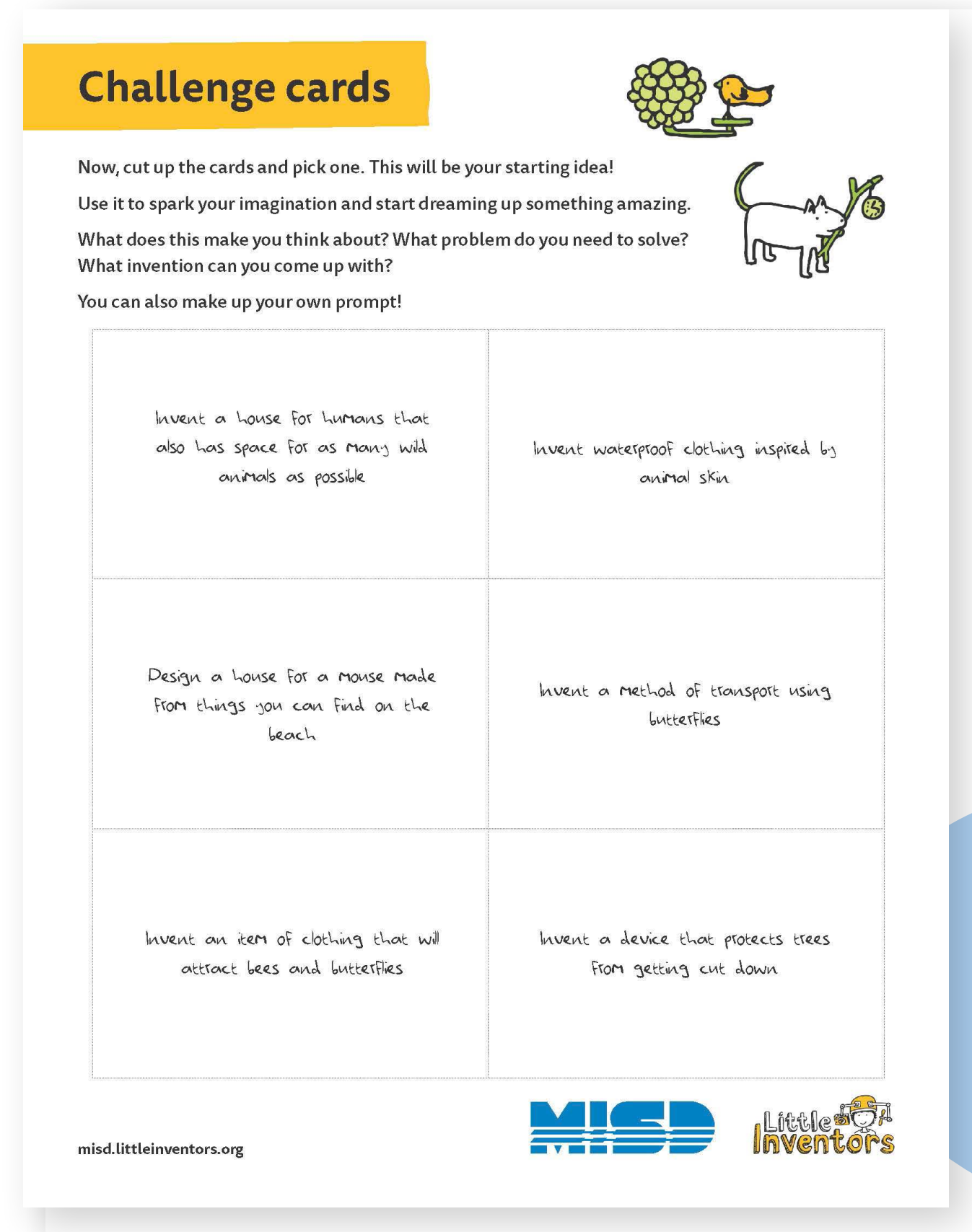
A narrated video version of this content can be found on the challenge microsite misd.littleinventors.org/challenges/wild-ideas

Student activities

40 - 180 mins



Inventor's Log



Challenge cards



The Challenge cards can be shared between multiple students

The teacher video guide will take you through all of the activities included in the Inventor's Log **[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)**

Video content



All video content required for the challenge can be found at misd.littleinventors.org/challenges/wild-ideas

On the mircosite you'll find multiple videos to share with your students to bring the challenge to life!



Videos include:

- Activated challenge presentation
- Discover Detroit Zoo
- Explore careers

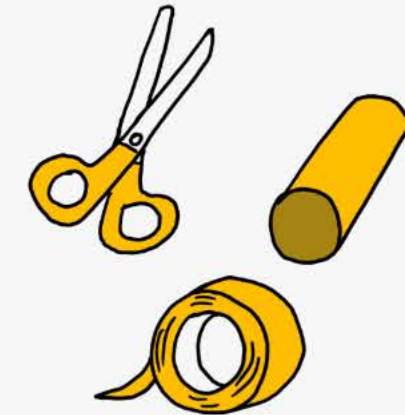
ACTIVITY 1

Full screen

Detroit Zoo | Connect with a Behavioral Husbandry Expert



Meet Mary, a behavioral husbandry coordinator at the Detroit Zoo. Behavioral husbandry at the Detroit Zoo means everything involving the care and well-being of the animals.

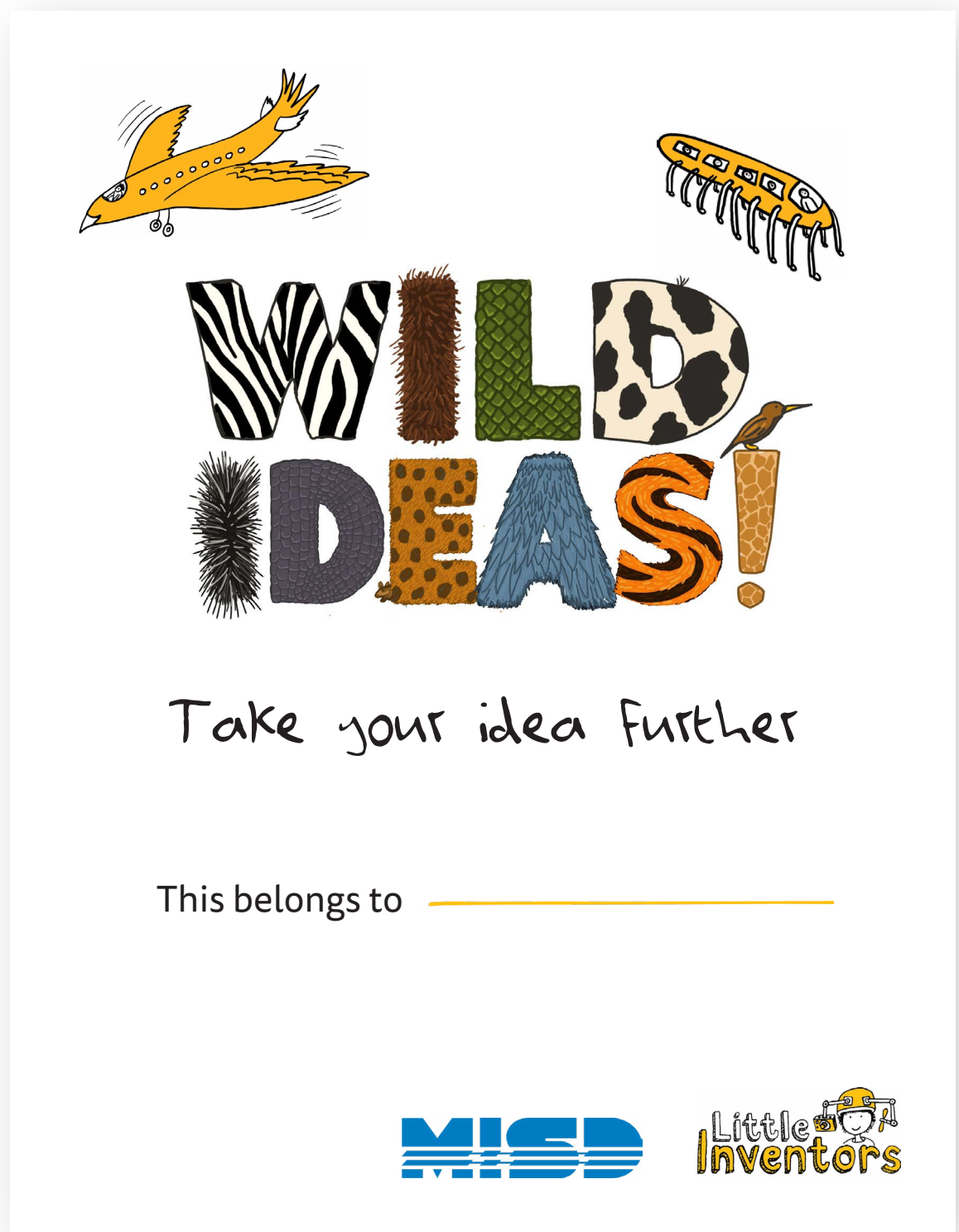


Go further!

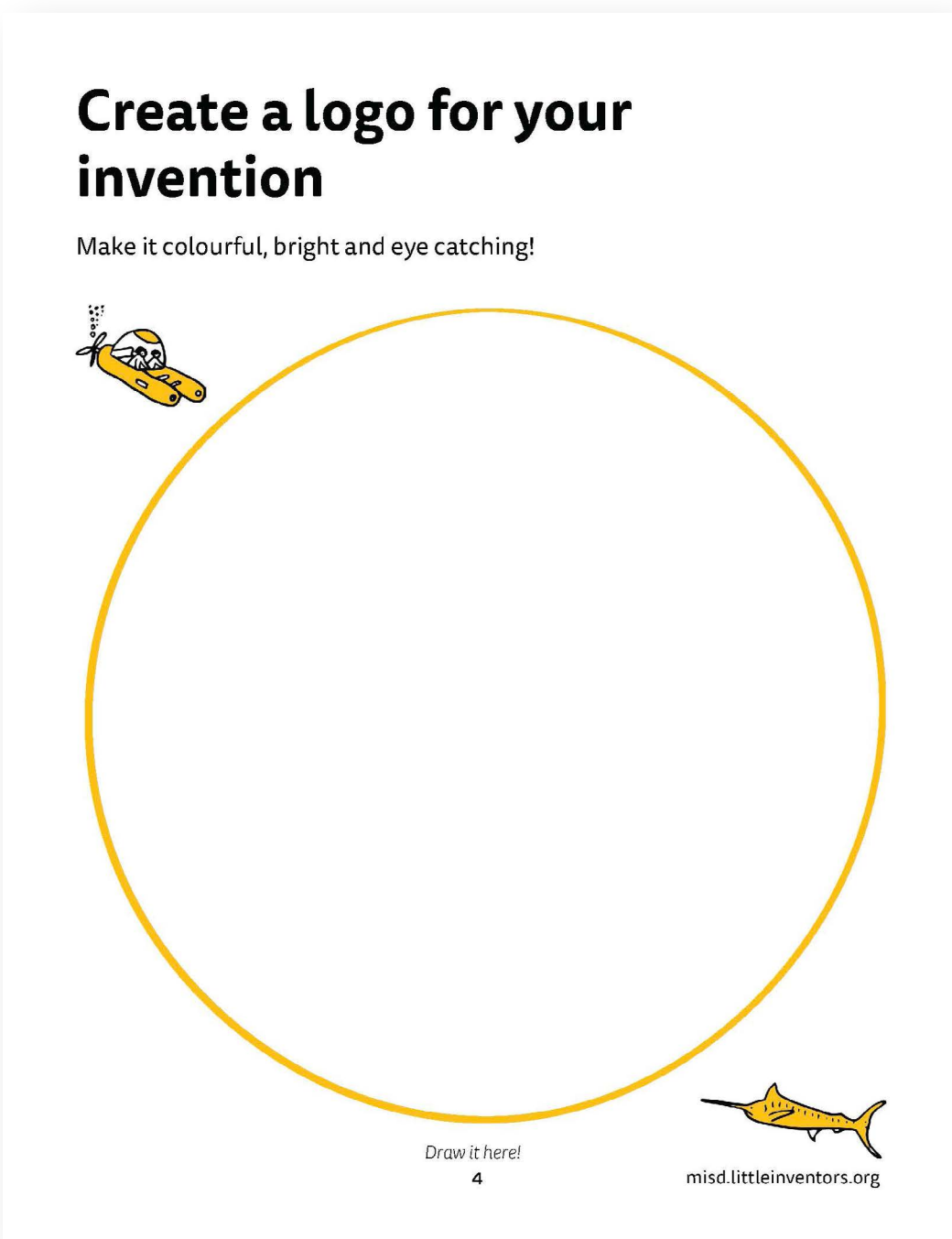
10 - 180 mins



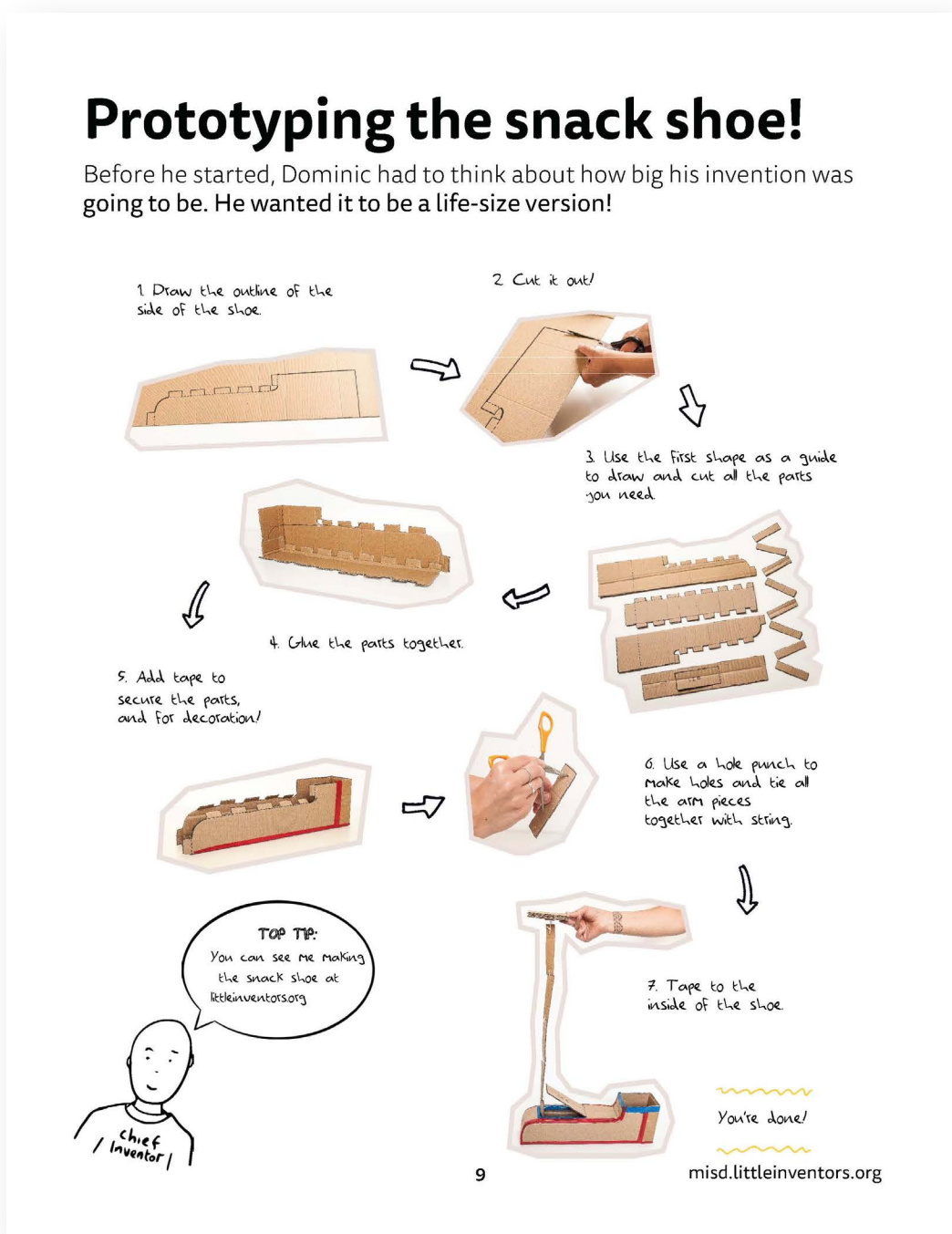
Extension activities for students who want to continue their great work. These activities can form many hours of additional learning and can be inserted during classtime or at home.



Take your ideas further



Example activities



From 2D to 3D

If your students want to take their idea even further and take it from 2D to 3D there is a series of helpful prototyping skills videos available on the challenge microsite.

Cardboard artist Lottie Smith will guide you through various skills that can turn trash into treasure!

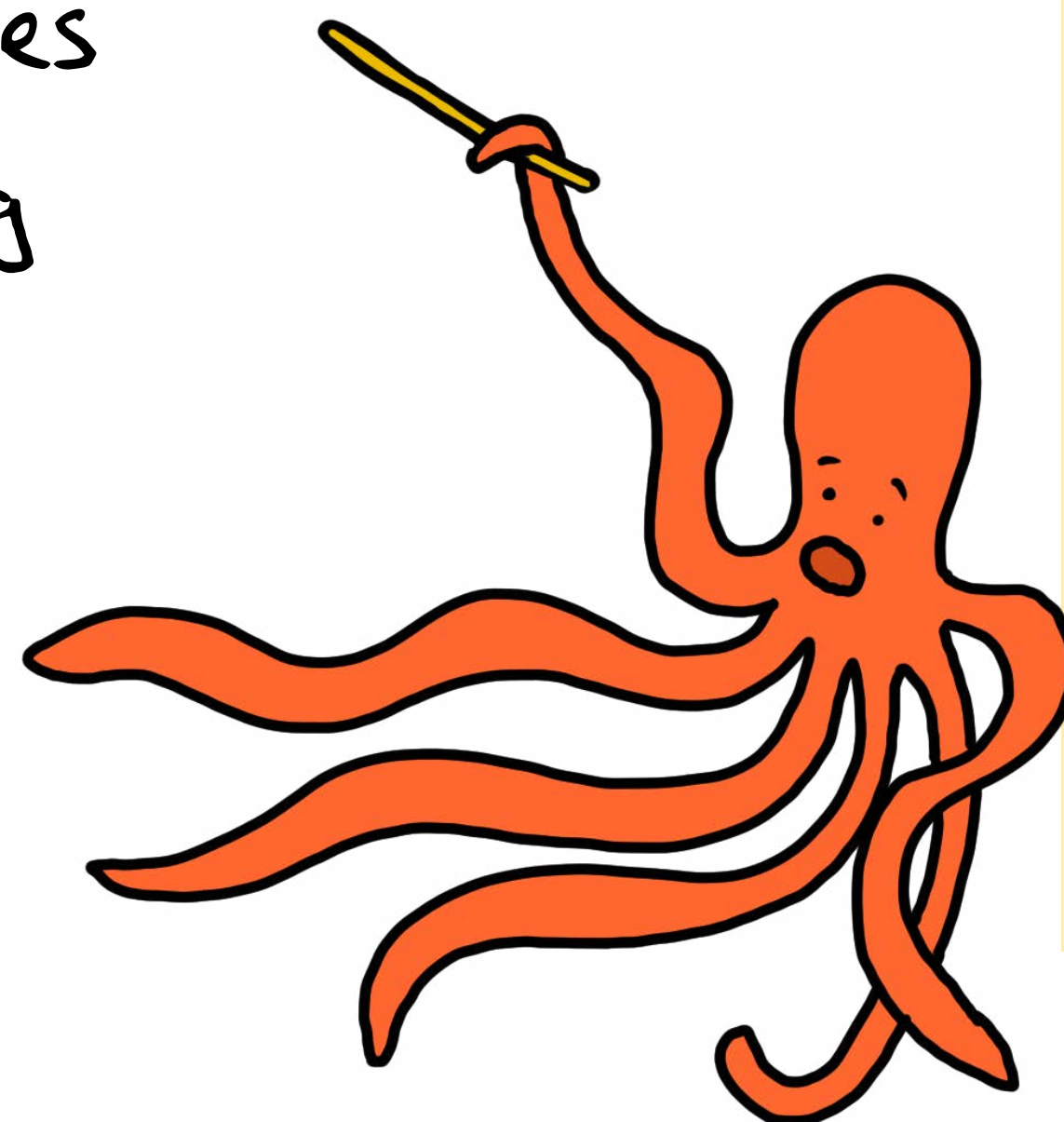


All video content can be found at misd.littleinventors.org/challenges/wild-ideas

Tips on using the resources

The resources are designed to be worked through in order with hands-on activities sprinkled in along the way to keep engagement high and creativity strong.

It's important to familiarise yourself with the resources before delivering anything to your class.



In addition to the printed materials your class will need:

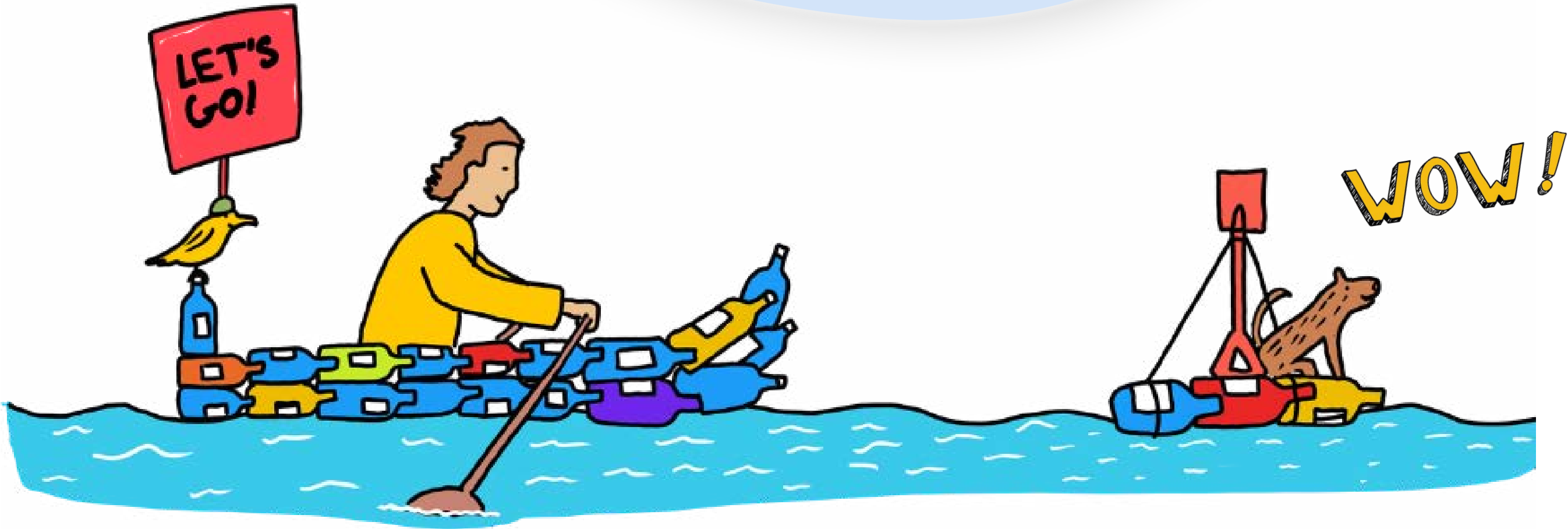
- Pens and colored pencils
- Scissors
- Upcycled materials for students that prefer to think with their hands rather than sketching (e.g. cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, pipe cleaners...anything destined for trash that can be re-used to make a model)
- Additional materials for prototyping if students want to explore the extension activities

Submitting your students ideas



Scan all invention drawing sheets and follow the upload instructions on our [upload page](#) to submit your ideas.

**Deadline
March 25 2026**



First name _____ Age _____

School _____

My invention is called _____

Who/what is your invention for? _____

What does it do? _____

How does it work? _____

Anything else you want to tell us? _____

Draw your invention here! Use a black pen, add colors and labels

Upload your idea at misd.littleinventors.org to get feedback.
And who knows, it could be chosen to be made real!

MISD Little Inventors

The best ideas submitted will be published on the website with feedback from our experts! And several ideas will be brought to life by a professional maker!

What next?

Celebrate all of the hard work completed by the whole class. You may want to explore ideas of how you can showcase all of the inventions at your school.

How about an invention exhibition?
You could invite the school community to come and explore all of the fantastic ideas!



We're here to help



If you have any questions or need any help please get in touch with Ellie or Craig at Little Inventors –

hello@littleinventors.org

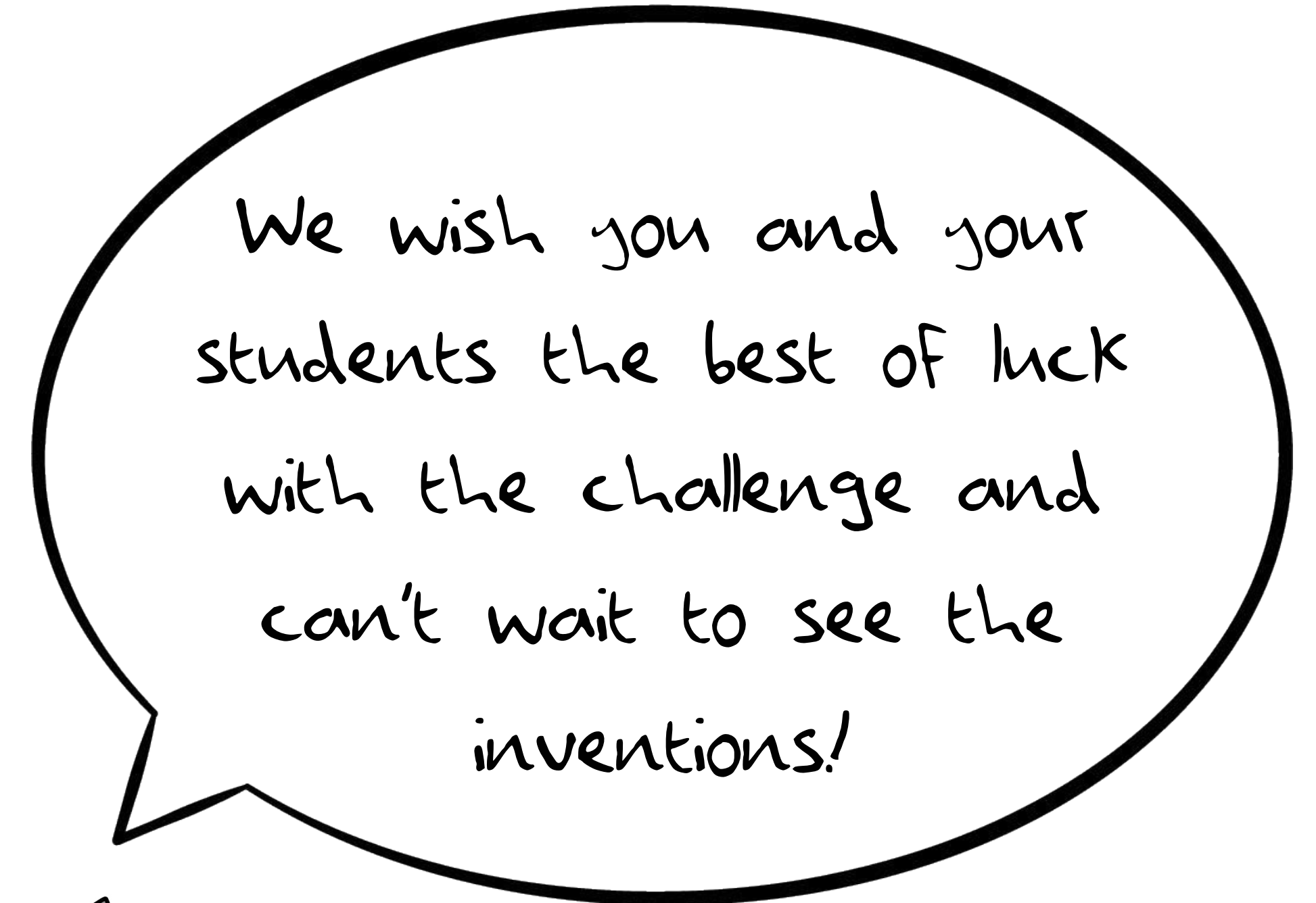
or the team at the MISD –

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Craig

Ellie