

# Critical & Creative Thinking (CCT)

## Lesson Plan - Kindergarten to Year 4

### 'Cloud Painting'

*In this lesson students will learn how to expand their imagination, elaborate their ideas - and how to use the strategy of changing perspectives to imagine more possibilities.*

**CCT skills** (from the Australian Curriculum's CCT Learning Continuum)

- ✓ use imagination to create things in new ways
- ✓ add detail to basic ideas, making thoughts more complex and intricate
- ✓ experiment with a range of options when seeking solutions

**CCT dispositions** (derived from the Australian Curriculum's description of dispositions)

- ✓ the student is broad and adventurous in their thinking
- ✓ the student is willing to look at problems and tasks from different perspectives

**CCT vocabulary** – imagination, perspectives, elaboration.

**You will need:** an electronic whiteboard, photos of clouds (from the Cloud Appreciation Society website), a partially cloudy day, class set of A4 paper with colour pencils, PDF file of 'CCT Cruncher – Cloud Painting' activity card.

#### Lesson sequence

1. Recap the 'Sketch Your Imagination' lesson. Revise 'imagination' and 'elaboration'. Give demonstrations of both and ask students to come up with their own definitions.
2. Introduce the term 'cloud painting'. Survey the class – Has anyone done cloud painting or does anyone know what it is?
3. Display the first photo of a cloud on the electronic whiteboard. Ask students to look closely and keep looking until they start to 'see' shapes that look like people, places or things. *I can see a duck.* Do the same with the other photos, allowing children to 'see' more than one image in each cloud.
4. Prompt students to add extra "detail" to their cloud painting (elaboration) - *Look, the duck laid an egg or the duck is paddling in a big blue pond.*
5. Choose students to come out the front and point to features in their cloud painting and explain to the class what each part of the cloud represents (elaboration).
6. Display the CCT Cruncher poster 'Cloud Painting' (PDF attached). Read the instructions for today's activity.

7. Write the word ‘PERSPECTIVES?’ on the board. Remind students that sometimes it’s helpful to look at something from a different angle. Looking from different perspectives helps to generate other ideas. Ask “How can you get new perspectives when you’re cloud painting outside?” (eg Lie down and rotate body to different positions)
8. Write the word ‘ELABORATION?’ on the board. Remember that elaboration is adding more detail to a basic idea. When you are cloud painting outside look for ways to add more detail by looking at the surrounding clouds.
9. Work in pairs and follow the instructions on the *CCT Crunchers* activity poster. Go outside, lie down on the grass with a buddy. Look at the different combinations of cloud shapes and patches of blue. Keep looking until you start to ‘see’ shapes that look like people, places or things. Wear a hat and if possible lie down in partial shade.
10. Conclusion: Revise the definitions of **imagination, perspectives and elaboration.**

Once students have mastered the concepts of imagination, perspectives and elaboration encourage them to practice this activity regularly at school and at home - as this will boost their creative thinking skills. For best long-term results students should practice this activity daily for 5 minutes. On clear days or overcast days try “indoor cloud painting” (see CCT Crunchers).