Divergent Thinking

**Divergent thinking** is a thought process or method used to generate creative ideas by exploring many possible solutions. It is often used in conjunction with its cognitive colleague, convergent thinking, which follows a particular set of logical steps to arrive at one solution, which in some cases is a “correct” solution. By contrast, divergent thinking typically occurs in a spontaneous, free-flowing, “non-linear” manner, such that many ideas are generated in an emergent cognitive fashion. Many possible solutions are explored in a short amount of time, and unexpected connections are drawn. After the process of divergent thinking has been completed, ideas and information are organized and structured using convergent thinking.

-Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divergent_thinking)

Being a good problem solver is often not a reflection of one’s intelligence. It often has more to do with how people approach problems, how they allow themselves ways to stay calm and make weak connections where others try to focus too much on specific details.

Read the link to the source on the Wikipedia article and answer the questions below.

Activities:

* Try looking up examples of when divergent thinking was instrumental to solving a problem.
* Can you think of a time in your own life when you used divergent thinking to solve a problem?
* When was an example where you were unable to use divergent thinking and the solution wasn’t as good as it could have been?