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RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS

"Thinking Imaginatively Like an Atlas Pioneer"

A reflective activity for school students (ages 13–19)

Atlas Pioneers are thinkers who look beyond the obvious and aren't afraid to explore difficult questions about the world. This activity helps you step into that mindset and discover how your imagination and ideas can grow.

Below are several sections that will help you explore your curiosity, creativity and the bold questions that could shape your future. Take your time, enjoy thinking deeply and let your imagination lead the way – because *everyone has imagination*.

✓ What am I passionate and curious about? What kinds of things spark my sense of wonder?

Think about subjects, activities or moments where you felt excited, inspired or fully absorbed:

- Occasions where you lost track of time because you were enjoying something so much
- Topics you talk about nonstop, even when nobody asked
- It could be anything from art, science, creative writing, cooking, computing, dance, music, languages, novels, design, architecture, space, cars, acting, journalism, sports, comedy.

List 2-3 topics you absolutely love and get inspiration from:

- •
- •

√ What questions would I like to tackle in this area?
These can be big questions, meaningful questions, practical questions, "why" questions or "how" questions. Nothing is too big or too strange. Try to include at least one bold or "impossible" question.
Write your questions:
•
•
✓ What skills do I already have in this area? What do I need to learn to get answers?
Think about both <i>hard skills</i> (e.g. maths, coding, drawing, writing, dancing, music) and <i>soft skills</i> (e.g. empathy, imagination, observing details, analysis, compassion, humour).
My existing skills:
•
•
Skills I want to improve or learn:
•
•
One small action I could take this week to build a missing skill:

√ Who else could I team up with?

Think beyond your usual circle:

- Someone older or younger
- Someone from a different background or subject area
- Online collaborators, clubs, hobby groups, music bands
- Local or international communities.

If something you want doesn't exist yet...could you create it?

Potential like-minded collaborators or communities:

- •
- •

√ What struggles do I have?

Examples might include:

- Feeling shy
- Short attention span
- Spending too much time on social media
- Struggling with maths or writing
- Giving up too easily
- Managing emotions
- Too much of a perfectionist
- Not confident enough (yet!)

My struggles:

- •
- •

Could these challenges hold me back—or spur me on anyway? Could they even be strengths in disguise?

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✓ What are the 'invisible' forces influencing how I think and create?

These might include influences from: Family Friends Teachers Social media News Cultural expectations Books, films, games or stories that shaped how I think Famous people Even pets!
Most helpful influences: • •
Influences that sometimes hold me back: • •
✓ If I could answer one of my big questions, what impact would it have? Consider:

- Would it matter mainly to me?
- Would it affect the people around me?
- Could it influence a community, a country or even the world?
- What might change tomorrow? What might change in ten years?

Impact reflection:

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✓ Which Atlas thinkers do I connect with the most?
Which parts of their story resonate with you—curiosity, courage, struggles, imagination or simply the way they saw the world?
Atlas thinkers I relate to most:
•
What inspires me about them:
•
What is one lesson I can borrow from them today?
•
If I had 5 minutes with them, I would ask:
•
√ What surprised me most about this exercise?
•
✓ What is the one small thing I want to explore further after doing this activity?
•
Feel free to do this exercise as often as you like — your passions and questions will grow and
change as you do. And remember your imagination is a nowerful tool. Keen exploring it — it grows every time you.

David Jarvis

use it.