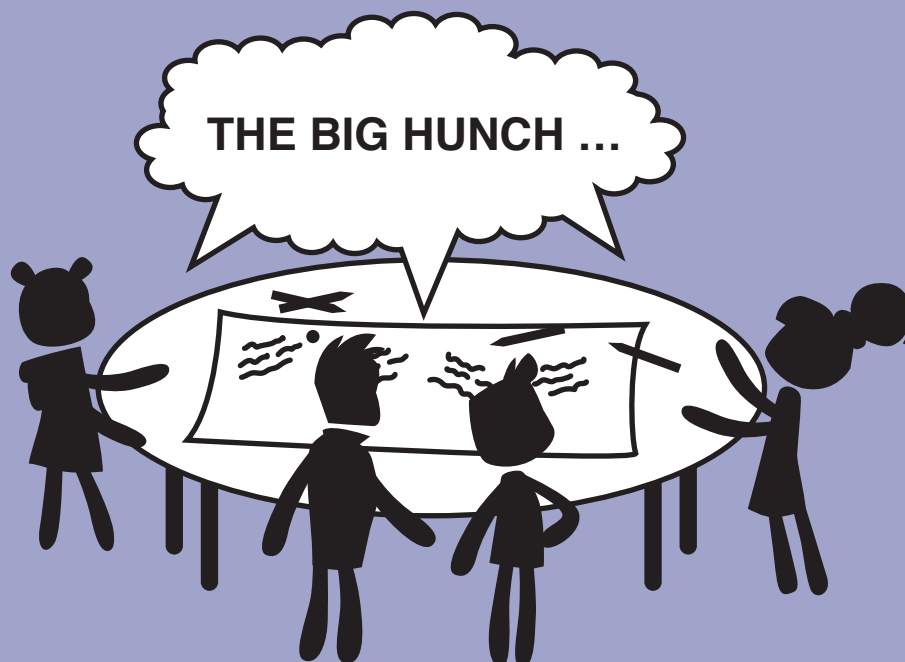


IDEATION METHOD: 31. WHAT IF?



31. WHAT IF?

Often, when embarking on a development project or study area, we may have some immediate ideas that might be interesting or revealing. This method allows an initial brainstorm where everybody can express their immediate "Gut Feeling", "Hunch" or "Intuition." Let's not forget that even scientists start their work by forming a hypothesis!

Materials needed: Blackboard, cardboard, smartboard or sharable online board e.g. padlet

Time required: 45 minutes.

How?

1) Gather the team at the start of a class or project and create an open-minded, relaxed atmosphere where everybody's thoughts and ideas are encouraged. It might be a good idea to relocate to a cosier place than the classroom or eat fruit or cake while doing this exercise!

Sit in a circle or on the floor. Be sure to have a shared whiteboard, blackboard or screen to write on for everyone to see.

2) Ask questions like: What do you think of this challenge? What do you expect to learn? What would you like to do with it? Where do you think the interesting challenges are? What kind of project or product do you think we need to develop? Where do you think the important potential is for learning?

3) Appoint a facilitator or take turns with older pupils who take notes and illustrate the suggestions and "hunches." Encourage everyone to express what is in their hearts and minds.

4) Read aloud from the list at the end of the session and see if anything really interesting has come up. Try to transform that into a hypothesis you can research afterwards. If you cannot, be sure to save the ideas for later in some form.