

Henry at Home

Wondering

Wondering means asking, “what if?” and imagining new possibilities from what you notice.

Henry David Thoreau, an American writer and philosopher, saw wonder in nature and it helped him find purpose.

Kids

- Look at the unfinished shape below.
- What could it become?
- Turn it into something new. Add lines, colors, or details to make it part of a picture.
- When you're finished, ask yourself: What else could it have been?
- There is no wrong answer. Wondering is about possibility.

Grown-Ups

Encourage your child to explain their thinking.

Ask:

- What made you decide on your picture?
- What does it do?
- Avoid steering toward a “better” idea. The goal is flexible thinking, not correctness.

Try Together

Make a new, unfinished shape so each of you can create something different.

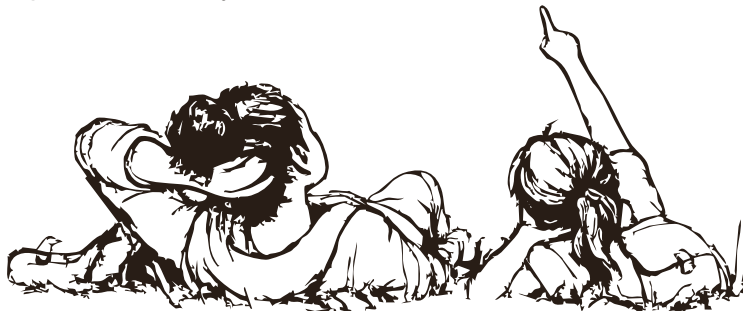
Compare:

- How are your ideas alike?
- How are they different?
- What did you notice about how each of you think?
- What else could the shape have become?



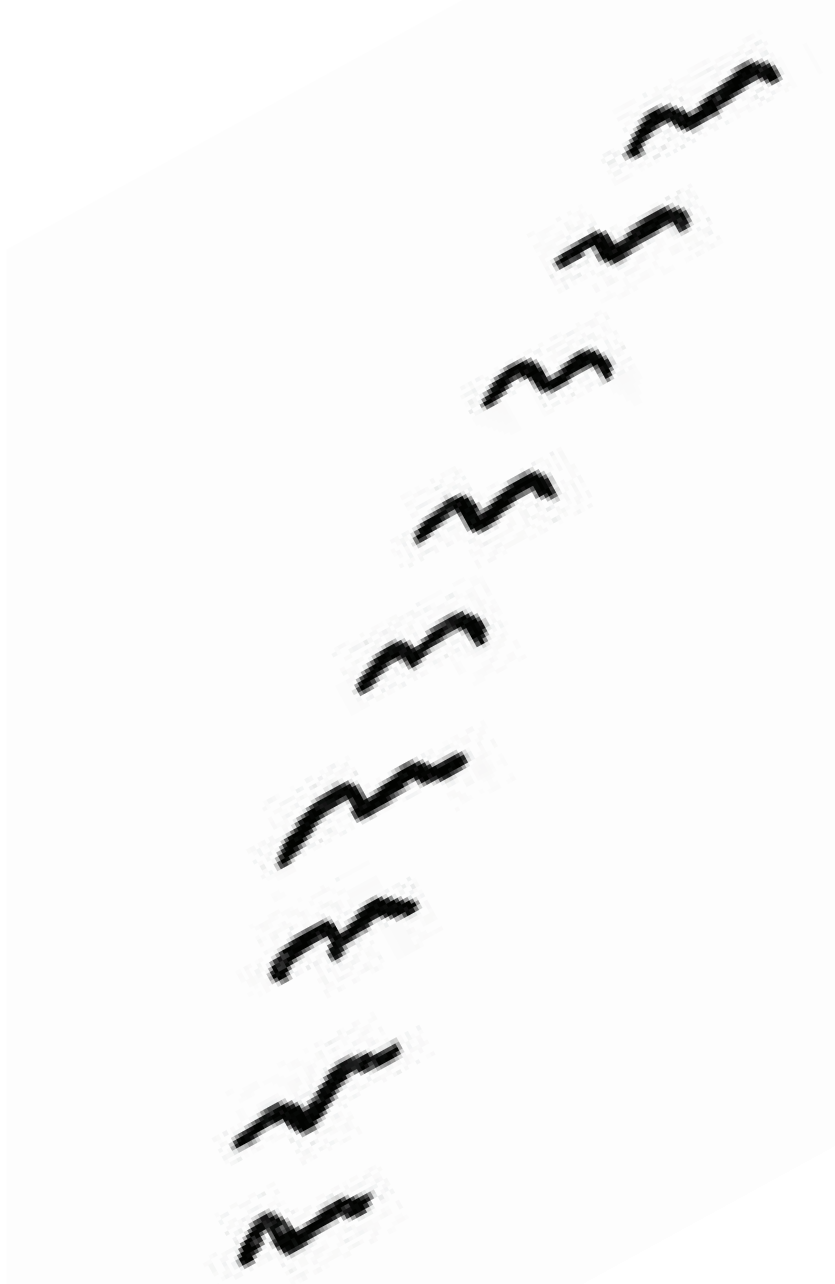
Connections

In school, children learn to ask questions, imagine possibilities, and test ideas. Wondering helps build creativity, problem-solving skills, and confidence in thinking independently. When families practice wondering together, they strengthen the habit of curiosity that supports learning across subjects.



Try this together...

1. Look at this sketch by Henry David Thoreau. What do you think it is?
2. Now, using the sketch, turn it into something new.
3. Share what you made and why.
4. Ask: What else could this have been?



Henry D. Thoreau
1859 March 28