

Vocabulary

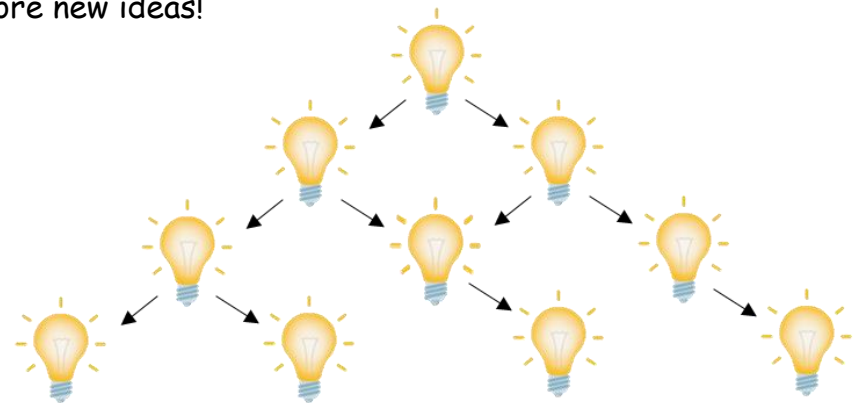
Term	Definition	Picture or Simplified Definition
Brainstorming	Brainstorming is collecting and sharing a lot of ideas to solve a problem.	
Creative Thinking	Creative thinking is using your knowledge and things you learn in school to come up with a new idea.	
Inventor	An inventor is a person who comes up with a new way to solve a problem.	
Intellectual Property	Intellectual property is a law that protects inventions.	
Entrepreneur	An entrepreneur is someone who turns ideas into a business and then gets to be their own boss!	

Ideation and Innovation

We all come up with ideas. Sometimes they are about something we wish we had to play with (like a cool piece of playground equipment). Other times they are about something we wish we could change (like how we could make it easier to clean our room). But how do you know if your idea has value? Would you believe me if I told you that ALL ideas have value?

It's True!

Even if an individual idea may never become something you can hold in your hand, or turn into a product or service, it still has value. This is because all ideas are sure to do at least one thing—they lead to new ideas. And those ideas lead to even more new ideas!



New ideas are what drive innovation and inventions like rain and sunlight help make new plants. Just like you need a lot of rain and sunlight for a single plant, a single invention is the result of many, many, many ideas.

Did you know that many famous (and many not so famous) inventors carry a small notebook with them? This is so they can write down their ideas as soon as they think of them. They know that every single idea they have has value. They know that all ideas deserve to be written down, so they aren't forgotten. They know that even if they can't use their idea right away, they might be able to use it in the future—either as it is, or as the spark for another idea.



As early as 500 BCE, people wanted to protect their ideas and inventions. They wanted to encourage new ideas but also wanted to stop others from imitating or copying their ideas.

Giving value to an idea is an important part of **intellectual property law**. Intellectual property laws are designed to protect ideas and innovations. However, they are complicated and continually being updated as new innovations are created that don't fit old patterns. Professionals who work in this field must have a good understanding of law, business, and technology.

