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ECS Newsletter 4/30/18

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Draft

ECS Newsletter

4/30/18

ECS Mission: To Collaborate with PSB educators to create rigorous, relevant, engaging learning for all students

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Goals of the Public Schools of Brookline

Goal 1: Every Student Achieving

Goal 2: Every Student Invested in Learning

Goal 3: Every Student Prepared for Change and Challenge

Goal 4: Every Educator Growing Professionally

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WWW.ECSbrookline.weebly.com

Psbma

Quotes of the Week

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have
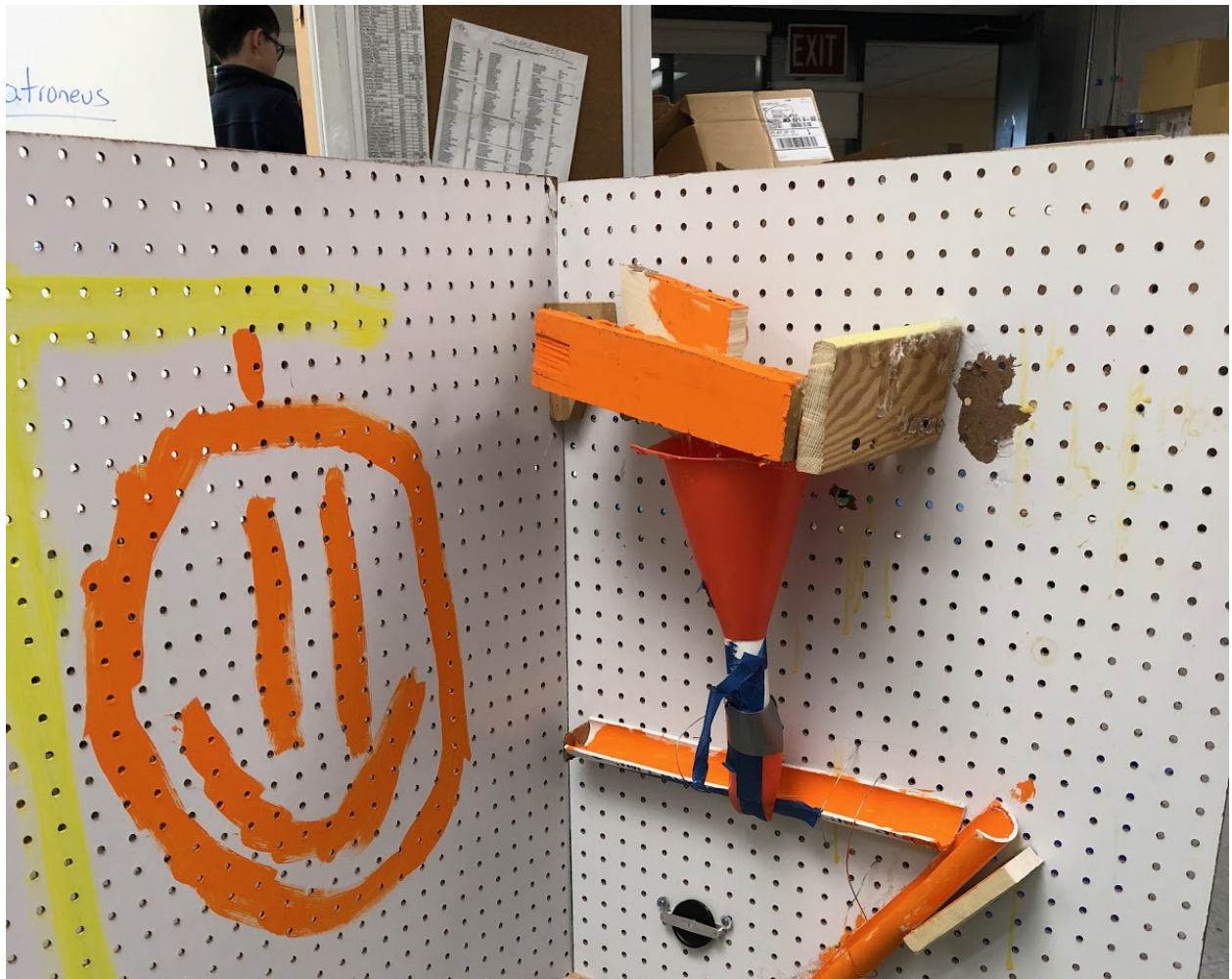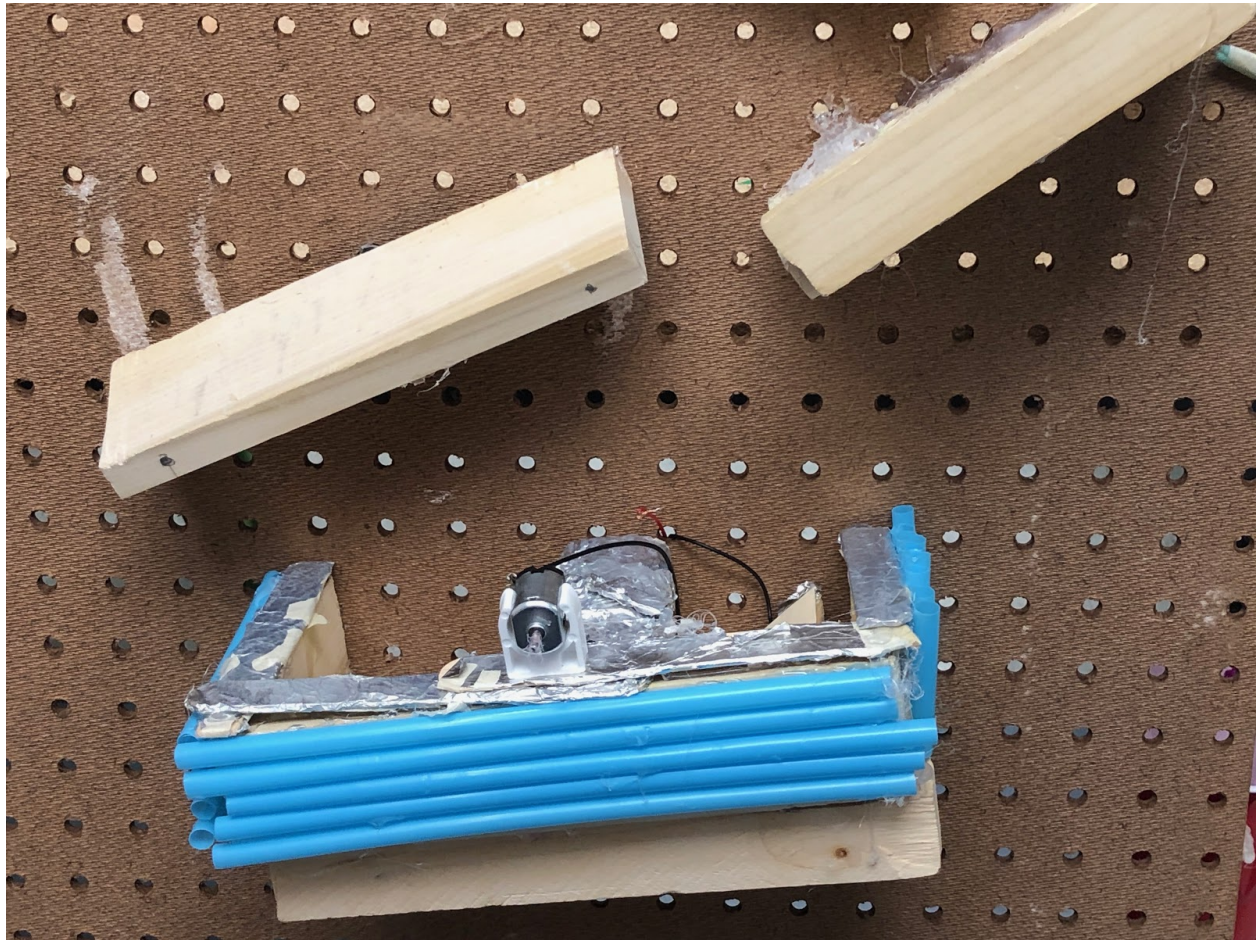~ Maya Angelou ~

www.menadimbh.com.my

Current Goings On

Rube Goldberg Exploration

This afterschool class explores the physics of Rube Goldberg machines by playing with ramps, angles, gravity, motors, pulleys and more. Thanks Matt D., and Bob M.!

<u>Articles and Resources</u>

<u>Great Fake Websites to Help Teach Students About Digital Literacy</u>

This article has a number of great fake websites that seem plausible, as well as a number of ways for kids to assess the validity of any website.
Do you think your students would determine whether the Pacific NorthWest Tree Octopus (Octopus paxarbolis) is a real animal or not?

True or False?
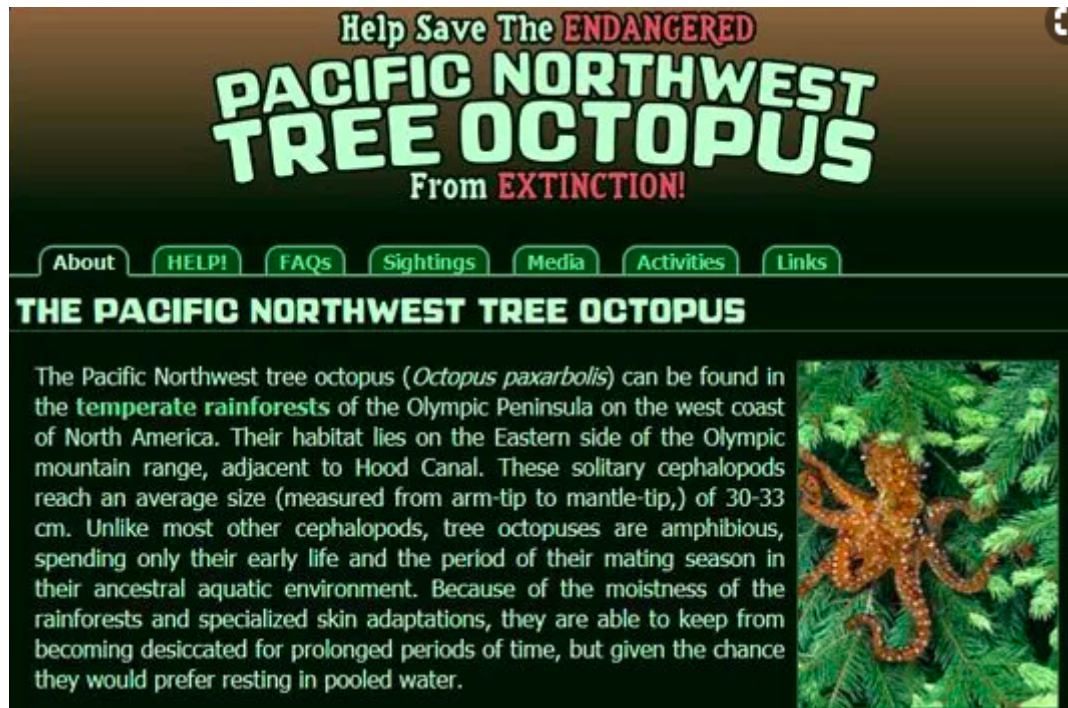
Leonardo da Vinci: How to See the World Like Nobody Else

 (Thanks Sue P!)
This is an interesting article about da Vinci and his process of questions, curiosity and Insight - similar to the processes we want our children to have.
From the article: From a young age, more than any talent beyond what he earned through practice, it's pretty clear that what drove him was his endless curiosity. Everything else can be traced back to it.

He imagined, he asked, he learned, and he did very ordinary things in an extraordinary way. While his work may be unreplicable, his method isn't, and it shows how we can nurture similar curiosity in our own lives.
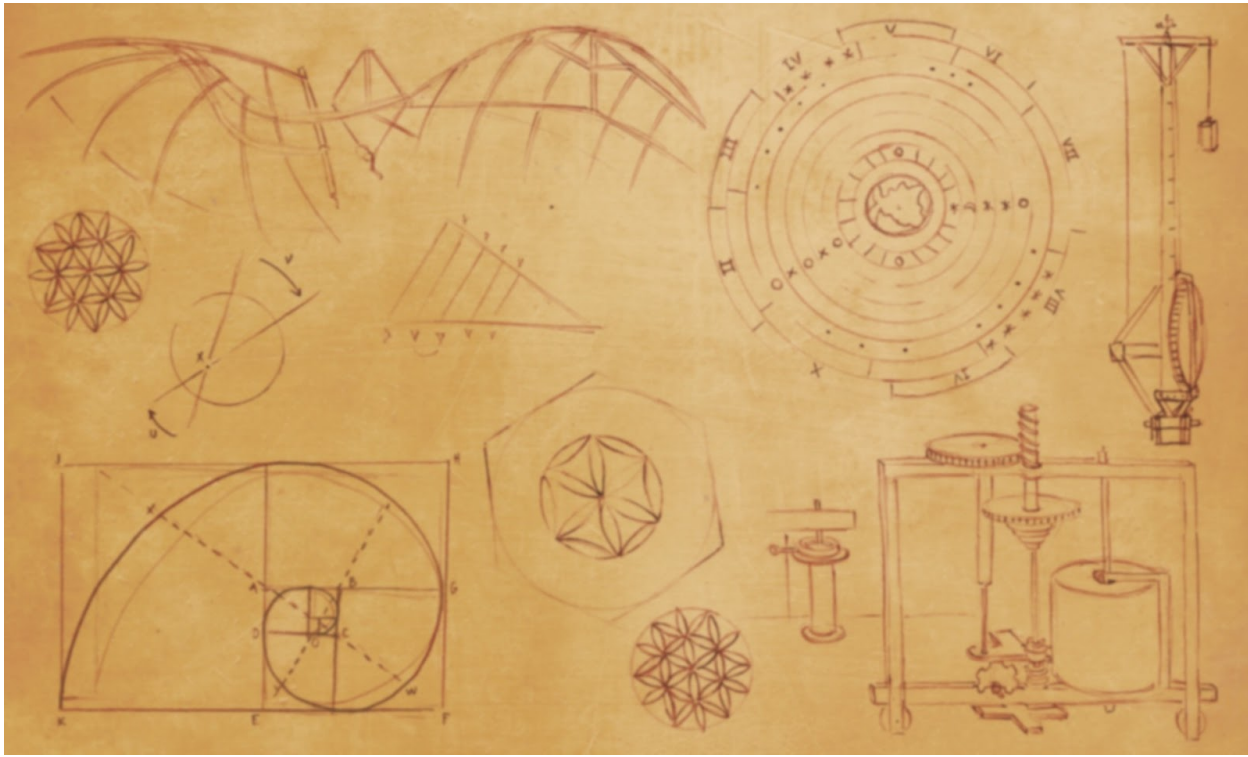
8 Things to Look for in Today's Classroom (thanks Matt R.!)

This is a great piece from George Couros that includes examples and a nice visual. You will see embedded many of the elements of project-based learning.

Meet the Four Female Founders Behind Tech's Most Exciting Inventions (thanks Matt R.!)

Notice that Adafruit and Little Bits are mentioned, and we use both of those products.

The Guide to Maker Education (thanks Matt R.)

This article contains a nice description of maker education, and includes 9 articles on varying subjects related to maker thinking.

Equity/Every Student Achieving

State Comes Out With New LGBTQ Curriculum

From the article: The curriculum, developed by a team of teachers with Massachusetts Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students and the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, will be released this summer. It will feature lessons on the 1969 Stonewall Riots and writings by gay and lesbian authors such as Langston Hughes and Willa Cather. It will also feature lessons like how Nick Carraway's love for Jay Gatsby may have influenced themes in "The Great Gatsby."

Using Chosen Names Reduces Odds of Depression and Suicide in Transgender Youths

From the article: Earlier research by Russell found that transgender youths report having suicidal thoughts at nearly twice the rate of their peers, with about 1 out of 3 transgender youths reporting considering suicide. In the new study, having even one context in which a chosen name could be used was associated with a 29 percent decrease in suicidal thoughts. The researchers controlled for personal characteristics and social support.

20 Books to Teach Diversity to Elementary and Middle Schools
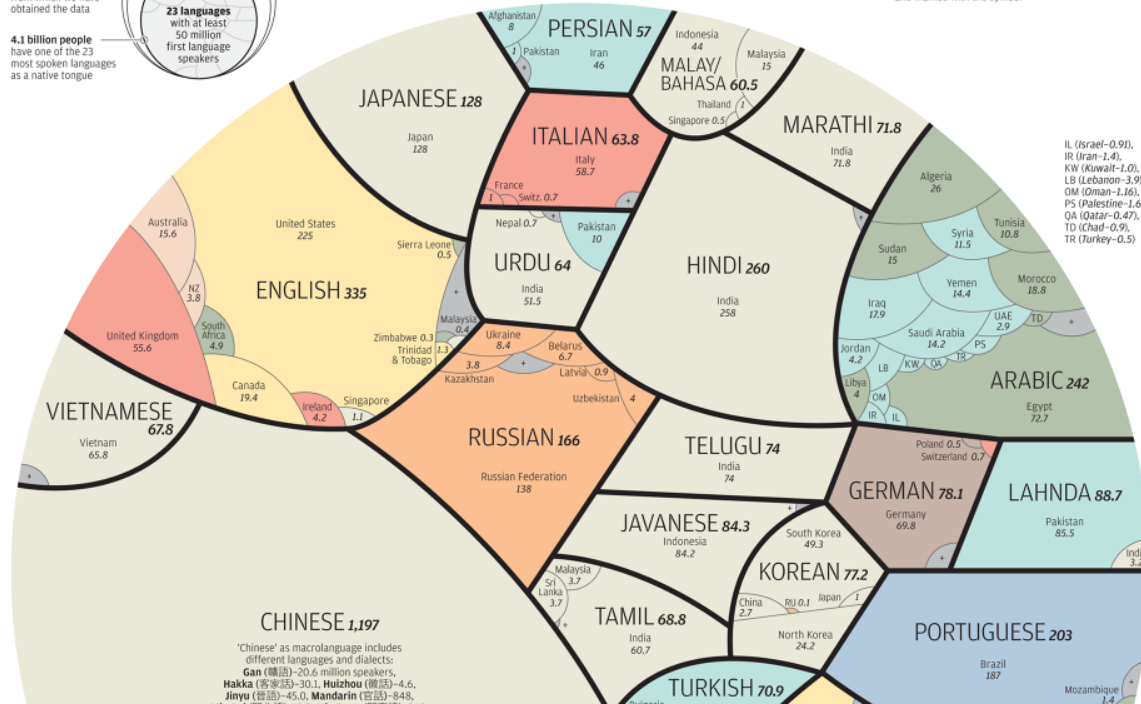
This is a nice compilation of books, depicting stories from a diverse number of people. From Sitting Bull (**Sitting Bull**) to Malcom X, (X) and from the perspective of transgender youth (George) and a lot more.
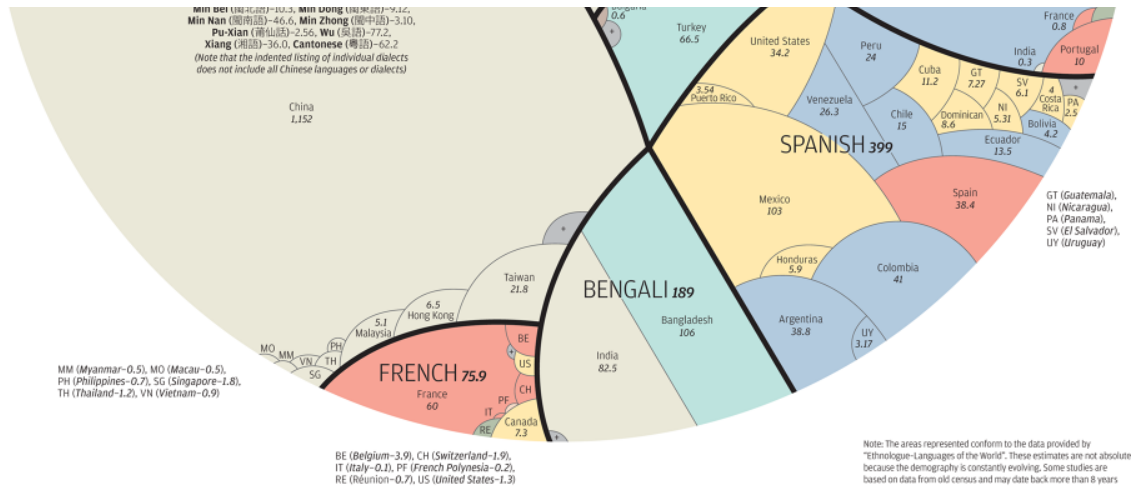
Mother Tongues

This is an interesting perspective about language. Do some of our students think that English is much more prevalent than this infographic shows???
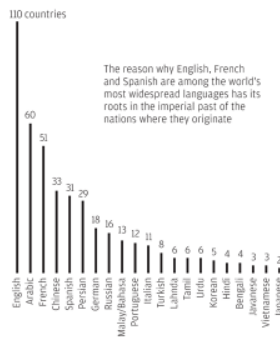
Min Bei (闽北语)–10.3, Min Dong (闽东语)–9.12, Min Nan (闽南语)–46.6, Min Zhong (闽中语)–3.10, Pu-Xian (莆仙语)–2.56, Wu (吴语)–77.2, Xiang (湘语)–36.0, Cantonese (粤语)–62.2
(Note that the indented listing of individual dialects does not include all Chinese languages or dialects)

China
1,152

Turkey
66.5

United States
34.2

France
0.8

Peru
24

India
0.3

Portugal
10

Cuba
11.2

GT
7.27

SV
6.1

4
Costa
Rica

PA
2.5

3.54
Puerto Rico

Venezuela
26.3

Chile
15

Dominican
8.6

NI
5.31

Bolivia
4.2

SPANISH 399

Mexico
103

Spain
38.4

Ecuador
13.5

GT (*Guatemala*),
NI (*Nicaragua*),
PA (*Panama*),
SV (*El Salvador*),
UY (*Uruguay*)

Taiwan
21.8

Honduras
5.9

Colombia
41

6.5
Hong Kong

5.1
Malaysia

BENGALI 189

Bangladesh
106

Argentina
38.8

UY
3.17

MO MM
VN TH
(PH)
SG

Bangladesh
106

India
82.5

BE
US
CH

FRENCH 75.9
France
60

PF
IT
RE
Canada
7.3

MM (*Myanmar–0.5*), MO (*Macau–0.5*),
PH (*Philippines–0.7*), SG (*Singapore–1.8*),
TH (*Thailand–1.2*), VN (*Vietnam–0.9*)

BE (*Belgium–3.9*), CH (*Switzerland–1.9*),
IT (*Italy–0.1*), PF (*French Polynesia–0.2*),
RE (*Réunion–0.7*), US (*United States–1.3*)

Note: The areas represented conform to the data provided by "Ethnologue–Languages of the World". These estimates are not absolute because the demography is constantly evolving. Some studies are based on data from old census and may date back more than 8 years

Number of countries in which this language is spoken

110 countries

The reason why English, French and Spanish are among the world's most widespread languages has its roots in the imperial past of the nations where they originate

60
51
33 31 29
18 16
13 12 11
8 6 6 6 5 4 4 3 3 2 2 1

English, Arabic, French, Chinese, Spanish, Persian, German, Russian, Malay/Bahasa, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, Lahnda, Tamil, Urdu, Korean, Hindi, Bengali, Javanese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Telugu, Marathi

Most popular languages being learned around the world

English
1,500 million
learners

French
82m

Chinese
30m

Spanish
14.5m

German
14.5m

Italian
8m

Japanese
3m
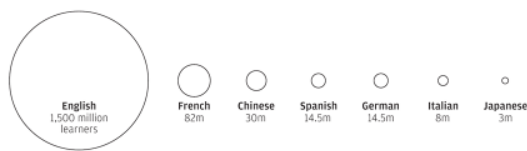
Distribution of living languages by country
The total count of living languages used as a first language in 60 countries

38 39 41 42 43 44 45 46 48 50 55 56 65 68 71 72 77 82 86 89 94 111 126 146 193 229 281 300 422 454 526 707 839 languages

Botswana, Guinea, Uzbekistan, New Caledonia, Afghanistan, Netherlands, Gabon, Ukraine, Italy, Uganda, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Togo, Turkey, Senegal, Mozambique, Venezuela, Israel, Zambia, Benin, United Kingdom, France, Congo, Germany, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Solomon Islands, Kenya, Sudan, Pakistan, Iran, Central African R., Ghana, Thailand, Colombia, Ethiopia, Laos, Peru, Ivory Coast, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Tanzania, Chad, Malaysia, Canada, Philippines, DR Congo, Brazil, Australia, Cameroon, Mexico, China, US, India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Papua N. Guinea

Sources: Ethnologue–Languages of the World, CIA-US, Unesco, United Nations, University of Düsseldorf, The Washington Post
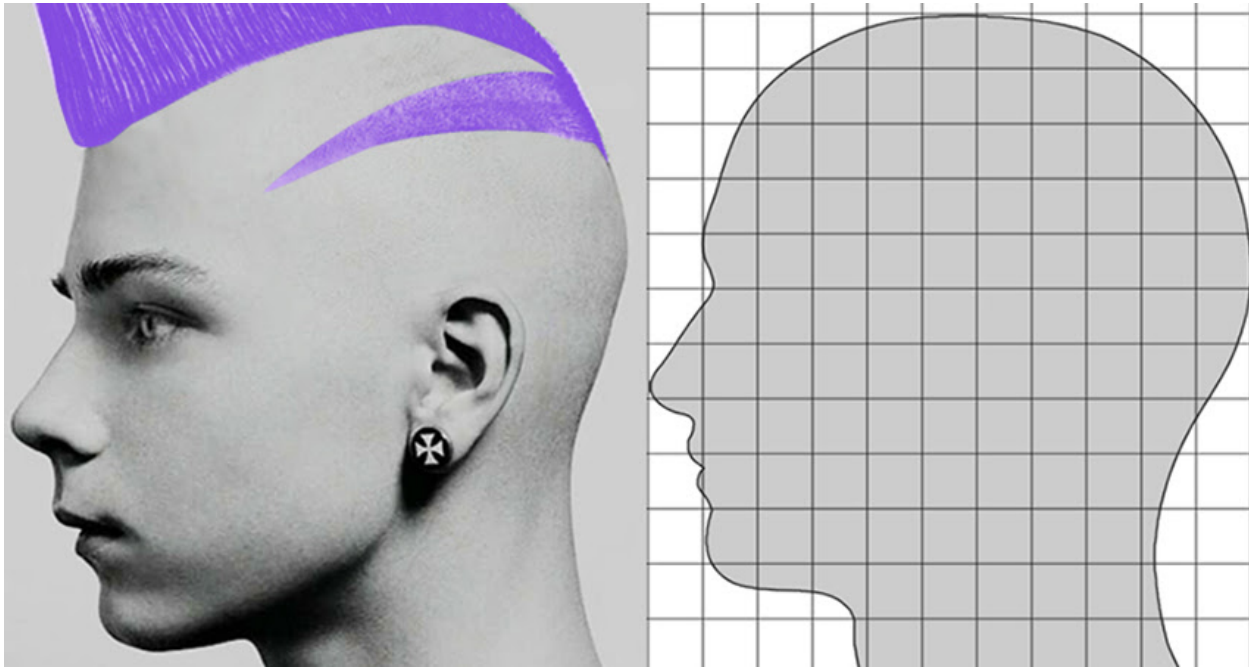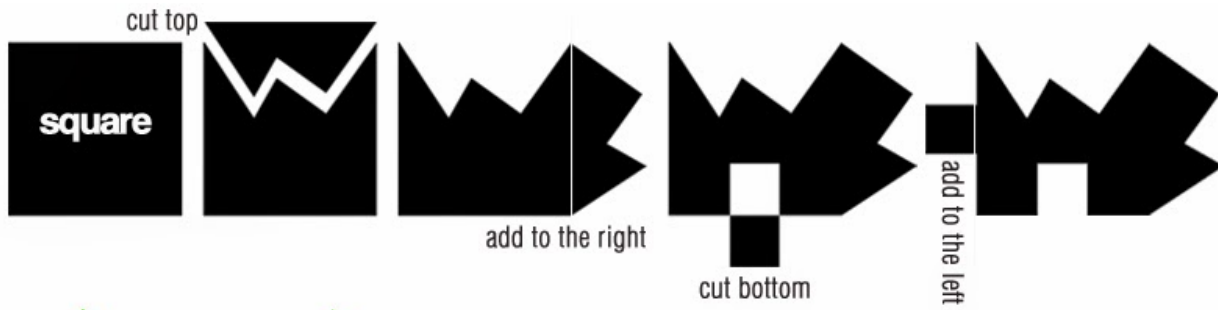
SCMP Graphic: Alberto Lucas López

Tinkertime

We have a theme today: *The Marriage of Art and Math*
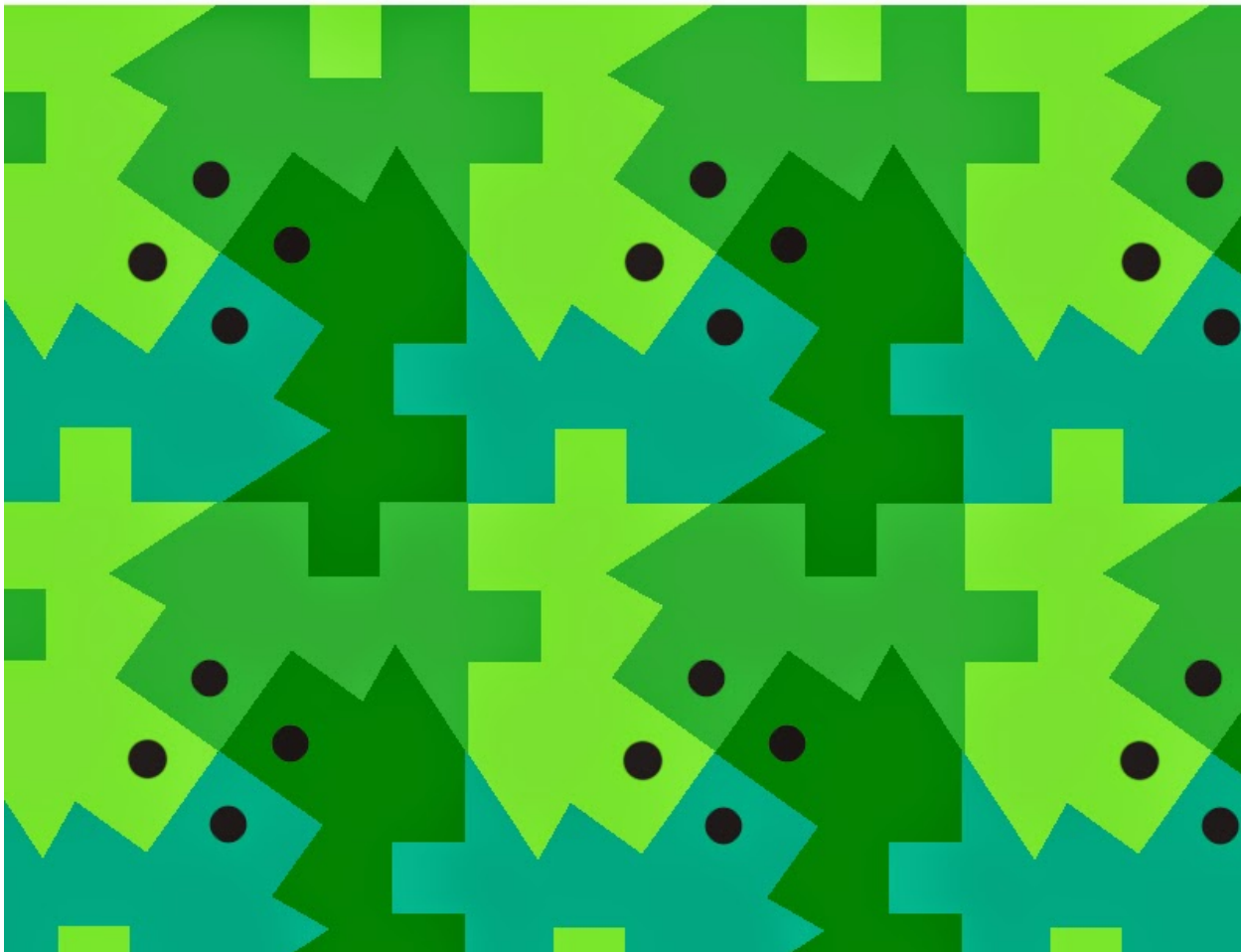
Teach Area and Perimeter With Hair Design

A fun little activity to teach math and art, using creativity!

Rotation Tessellation

cut top
square
add to the right
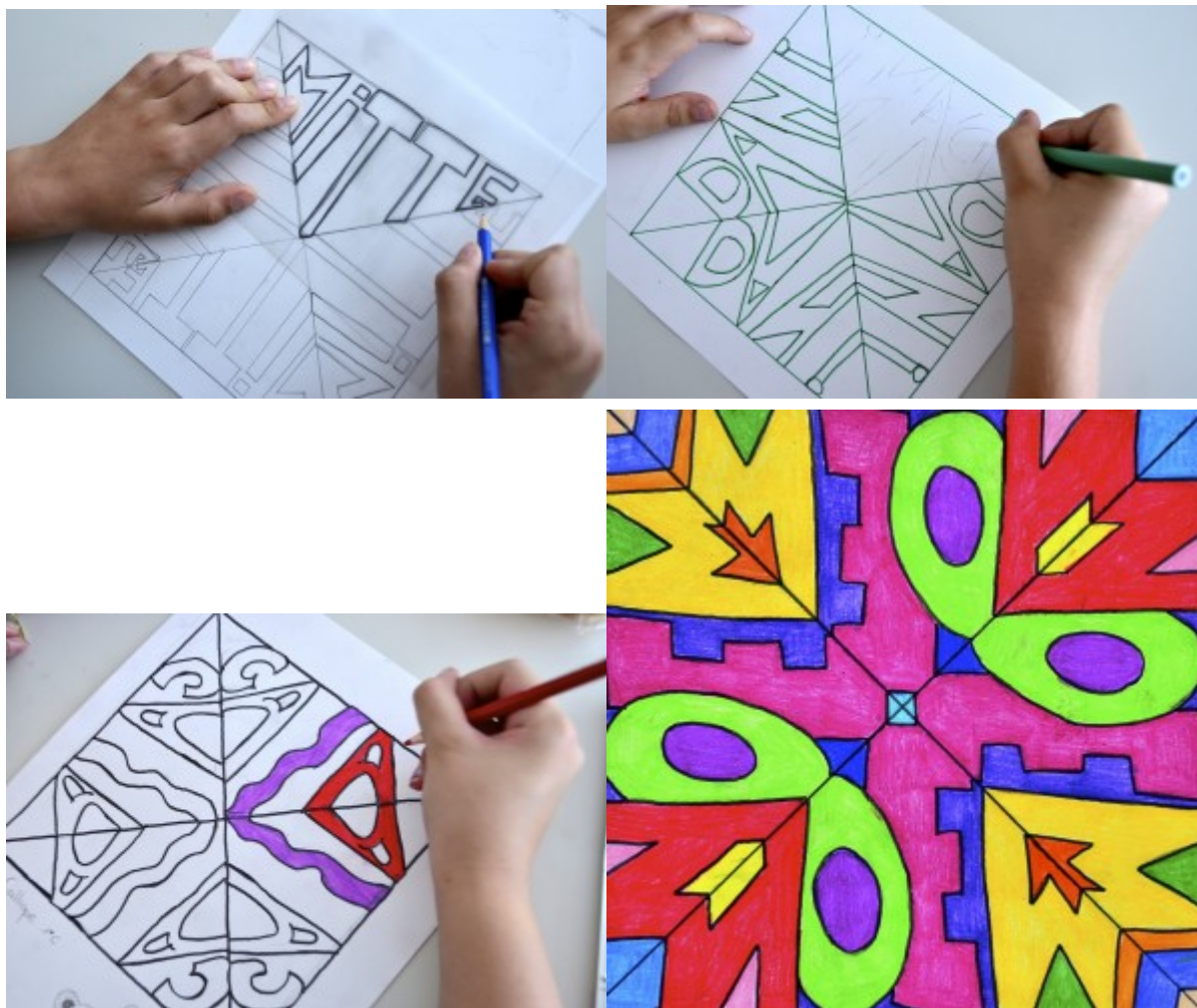cut bottom
add to the left

Rotation Tessellation

Symmetrical Name

From the article: In 6th grade classes we have worked on the symmetry, by writing our name and by drawing it four times in a square shape. Also the colors are put in a symmetrical way, thus forming abstract compositions, balanced by symmetrical lines.

Places to Go/Things to Do

MIT - Engineering Design Workshop - Summer

For rising 9 - 12 graders

The workshop builds on students' math, science, and artistic abilities and will use basic principles of engineering, problem solving, and design. Short lessons on interesting topics will add to the project-based experience. While at MIT, students will also have opportunities to see many examples of engineering, art, and science at work. Past projects have included a modified Razor scooter, a giant tower of speakers, remote-controlled flying objects, and an electric cello.

Parents' Guide to 50+ STEM Summer Camps in Massachusetts

This a long list of some interesting summer camp opportunities. I can't help notice that most of them are for high school and middle school students. Who wants to start a STEM summer camp for elementary -aged kids with me?

KIDS 4 CODING Summer Tech Program

(Thanks Newton STEM!)

1. [Kids 4 Coding](#) offers half- and full-day co-ed summer technology programs for students ages 7-16, in various age groups, **July 2 to August 17**, at both Newbury College in Brookline and Lesley University in Cambridge, with extended-day options. See a [2018 preview video](#) and visit [Kids 4 Coding](#) for pricing and availability of programs, which run in weekly segments and include:
   - Minecraft & Robotics
   - Game Design & Programming (various platforms)
   - Coding Through Music Production
   - Minecraft & Engineering
   - Design & Code Wearable Tech
   - Fly & Code Drones
   - Build & Code Your Own Pi-Top Laptop
   - Build Your Own Minecraft Pi Laptop
   - 3-D Design
   - Website Design
   - Team Robotics & Visual Programming

Mass. Audubon Bird-a-thon, May 11-12

(Thanks Newton STEM!)

[Join a team](#) for the Massachusetts Audubon Society's annual [Bird-a-thon](#), 6PM to 6PM, **May 11-12**, to raise money for bird sanctuaries and programs. The event is open to Official Birders and Bird-a-thon Boosters who bird for fun and want to fundraise, too.