

TOPIC 2

Learning keys

2.1 Overview

Do you have keys to unlock your own learning? What happens when you learn? In this chapter, we will explore different ways of learning and thinking. We will also introduce you to some ‘thinking tools’ and ‘learning keys’ to help you become a better learner.

2.1.1 Think about learning

- What are three different types of intelligence?
- How can you use an ‘alphabet’ key to help unlock your thinking?
- What are two ways of practising collaborative skills with your partner?
- What are potential benefits of being an active learner?



LEARNING SEQUENCE

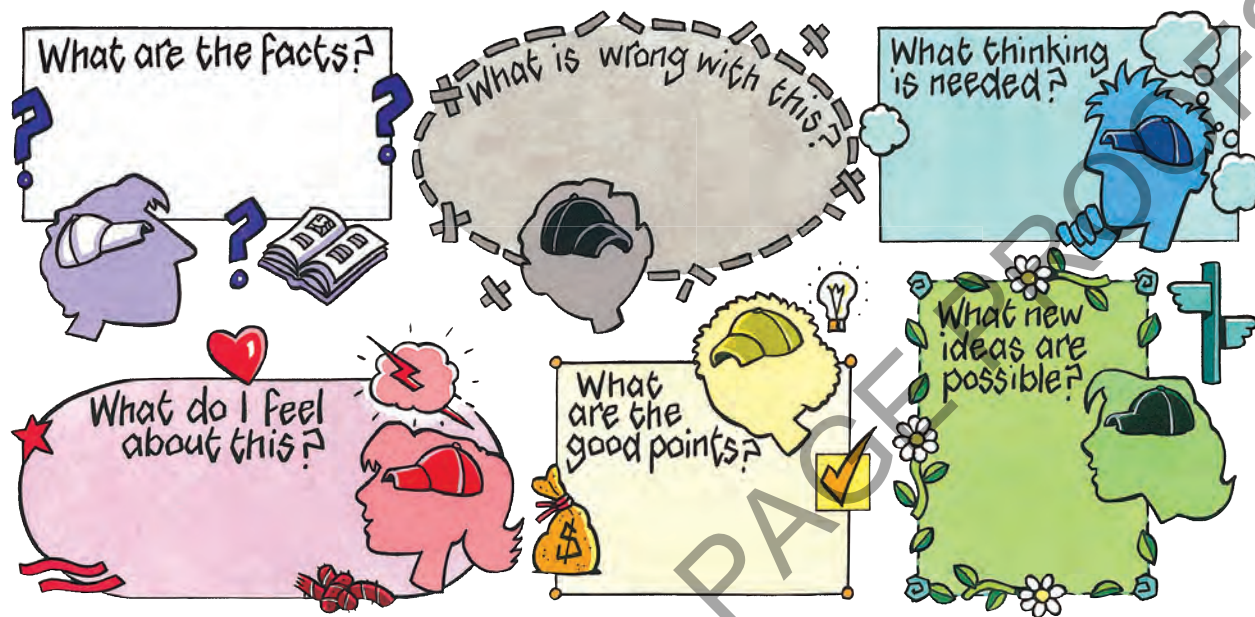
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2.1.2 Your quest

Thinking with different hats

There are a number of very useful tools that can help develop your thinking. One of these was created by a great thinker by the name of Edward de Bono. He created the idea of using different coloured **thinking hats** for different types of thinking. These hats don't even have to be on your head. The idea behind each hat just needs to be *in* your head.




THINK AND DISCUSS

Six thinking hats

- Look at the different types of questions that can be asked when 'wearing' the different coloured hats. These hats can be used to help direct your thinking about a particular problem in different ways.
- With your partner, select one of the following problems.
 - Unhealthy food in school canteen
 - Too much homework
 - Too much school litter
 - Sleepy students
- Using each coloured hat, write down an answer using that type of thinking.
- Taking turns, share your answers with your partner.
 1. How were your answers and those of your partner similar, and how were they different? Suggest some reasons for these findings.
 2. If you were to think about this particular problem again, how would your thinking be different?
- Suggest two other problem-type questions that could be used with the thinking hats.
- Add these to a class collective thinking jar, for some more 'hat thinking' at another time.

Problem:	Students are to wear only black coloured clothes to school.
Red hat:	How do you feel about wearing only black clothes to school?
Yellow hat:	What's good about the idea?
Black hat:	What's wrong with this idea?
White hat:	What information do you have (or need to have) on this idea?
Green hat:	What are some ways to help this to happen?
Blue hat:	What do you need to do next, or have done so far?

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