

LEVEL

5

Upper
Beginner

Compass
Readers

How Designers Design

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Nonfiction 5-7



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A designer is a person who has ideas. But that's not all.
A designer plans how to make those ideas happen.

Everything people have ever made started as an idea.





Designers are many things. Designers are artists. They can create in their minds pictures of their ideas. Designers are scientists. They understand how the physical world works. Designers are **inventors**. They make things that are new and different.



An interior designer plans and decorates rooms.

Different kinds of designers have different kinds of ideas. A fashion designer designs clothes. A software designer designs computer programs. A landscape designer designs parks and gardens. Other designers design furniture or books or cities. There is no limit to what people can design.

An idea has to come from somewhere. Why does that idea pop into someone's head? Usually it comes from a problem or a need.

Long, long ago, there were no cars or carts or wagons. To move something heavy, people had to drag it. That was a problem because it was hard and slow work. Then people **noticed** that round things roll. Someone designed a way to put rocks or logs under a heavy **object**. Rolling it was easier than dragging it. People had **invented** the wheel!



Getting Started

Most designers follow a set of steps to make their ideas happen. Step one is defining a problem or need.

Some needs are easy to **define**. A theater puts on a show. Actors act on a lighted stage. They wear costumes. Set designers design the stage sets. Lighting designers decide what lights to use. Costume designers choose clothes for the actors to wear. Together they form the design team. They share the same need, which is making the show happen.





A doghouse is different from a home for a cat or fish. Choosing what a dog needs is the designer's first step.

Let's see how you can be a designer. Pretend you have a new dog but don't have a doghouse.

For step one, you define the problem or need. Your dog needs a doghouse. You might have a good idea for a birdhouse or fish tank, but that won't fill this need. Your first step is knowing what problem to solve. The design must suit the need.