21st Century Learning Evaluation and Adaptation for G/T Education

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Outline:

Presentation on 21st century learning, online learning resources, and pedagogical design capacity (15 mins)
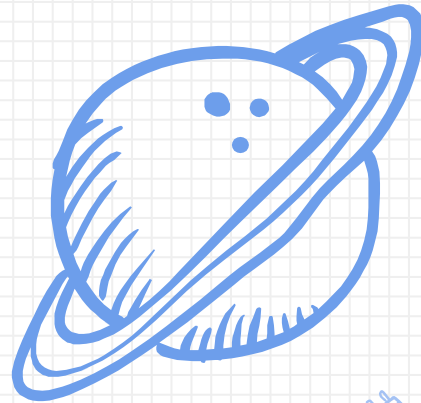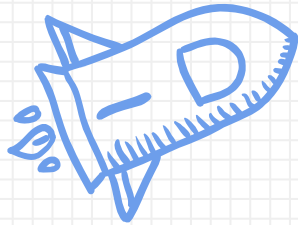
Lesson evaluation and adaptation exercise (40 mins)

Wrap-Up (5 mins)

What does 21ˢᵗ century learning mean to you?

21ˢᵗ Century Learning

Gaining the competencies to participate fully in society; not only in the future, but also in the present

Components of 21st Century Learning

The 4 Cs:

- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration
- Communication

But also:

- Active
- Authentic
- Interdisciplinary
- Participatory
- Uses effective assessment methods
- Develops digital literacy

21st century learning is creative

Students instigate research; develop ideas, solutions, and products; and share their creations with authentic audiences.

21st century learning involves critical thinking

Students actively interpret, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and apply complex information.

21st century learning is collaborative

Students work together and use effective communication to construct a common understanding of the topic.

21st century learning involves communication

Students interpret meaning and effectively express ideas in diverse forms and contexts.

21st century learning is active

Students are highly engaged in active knowledge-building.

21st century learning is authentic

Students engage in meaningful work that explores real challenges connected to the discipline and is connected to communities beyond the classroom.
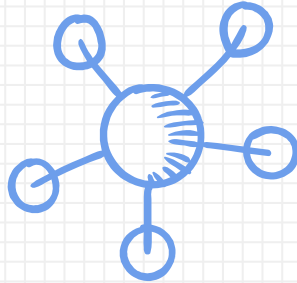
# 21st century learning is interdisciplinary

Students consider multiple disciplinary perspectives, create connections between them, and integrate knowledge into a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

21st century learning is participatory

Students make choices about what they learn, produce work similar to domain experts would, and share their learning with broader communities.
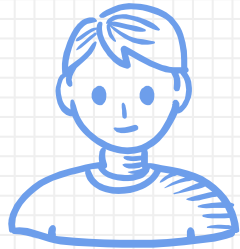
# 21st century learning uses effective assessment methods

Diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments are connected and provide students with feedback that improves their work, supports meaningful comparisons, and shows them their progress.
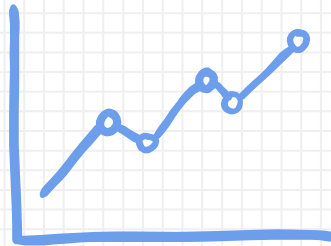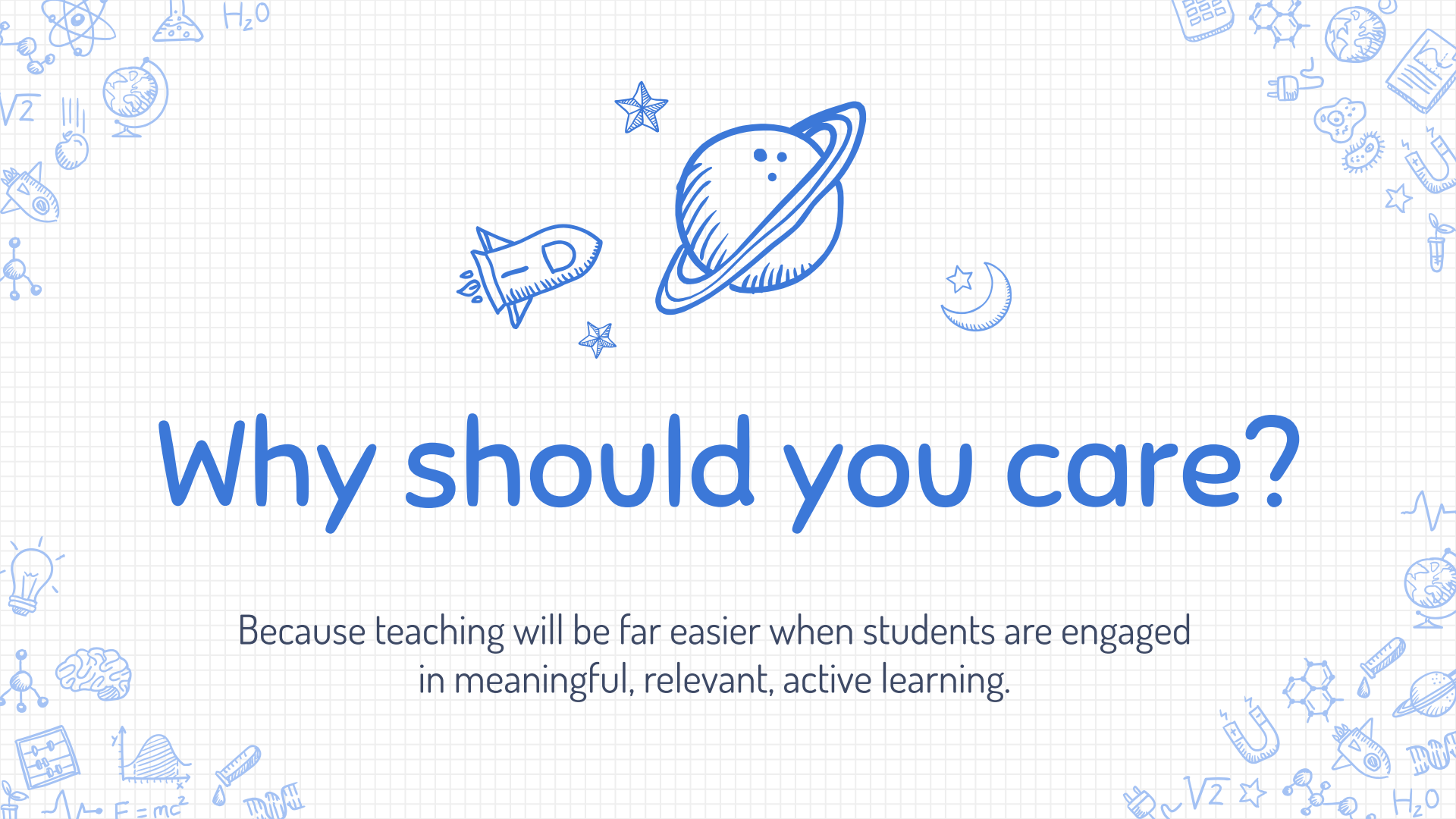
21st century learning develops digital literacy

Learning involves accessing, using, and producing digital information or digital media, and/or using digital technologies to communicate and share with others.
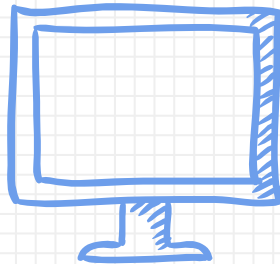
Why should you care?

Because teaching will be far easier when students are engaged in meaningful, relevant, active learning.
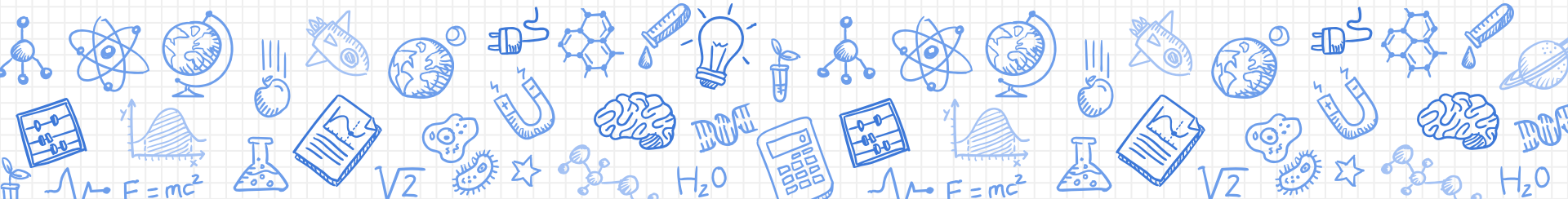
Why is this relevant to G/T contexts?

Because G/T students' refined interests, knowledge, and skills will help them deeply engage with these more complex activities.

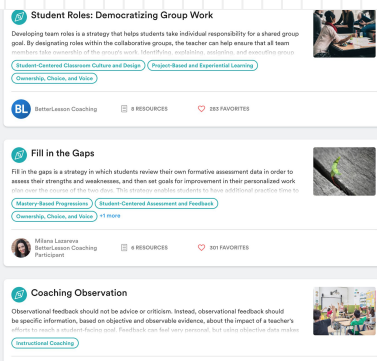Imagine you need to develop a learning unit that promotes 21st century learning.

Where do you start?

Online Learning Resources

Web-based platforms that have:

- Innovative and interactive curricular materials
- Teacher-created lesson plans
- Visualization tools

Online Learning Resources
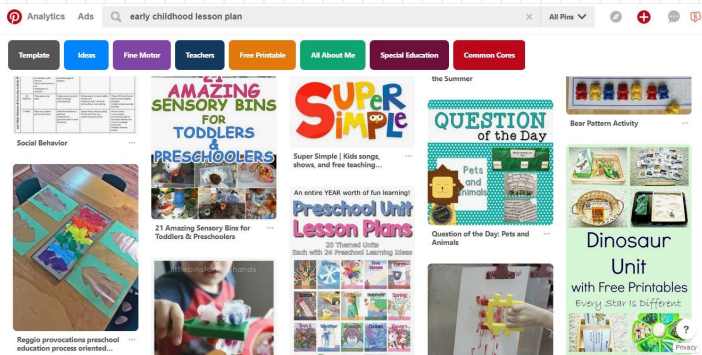
Benefits:

- Usually free and high-quality
- Provide access to a wide variety of resources
- Fit specific contexts
- Saves time
- Accessible when needed
- Can fill gaps in your knowledge
- Allow the sharing of self-made resources
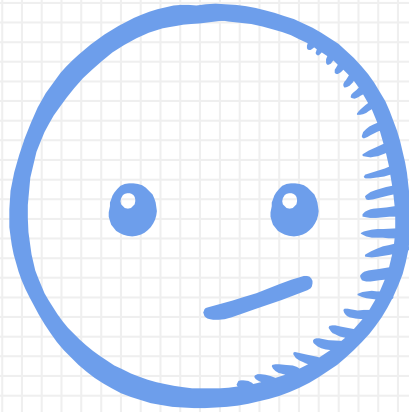
Unfortunately....

They are usually traditional, concrete materials that don't support innovating ways of teaching and learning

Pedagogical Design Capacity

An educator's ability to adapt curricular materials to meet the needs and interests of students.
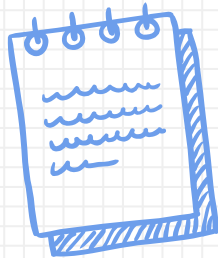
Pedagogical Design Capacity

There are three ways we can implement resources:

1) *Offloads* – implementing unchanged materials

2) *Improvisations* – modifying instruction and flexibly adapting materials

3) *Adaptations* – somewhere between offloads and improvisations

Evaluating lessons for 21st century learning

Step 1: Select either:

A grade 2 math unit on linear measurement

OR

A grade 9 ELA unit on personal identities in written texts

Step 2: Navigate to the shared folder and choose a breakout group

Step 3: Evaluate how well the lesson incorporates each dimension of 21st century learning by typing why/how it aligns, somewhat aligns, or does not align with each principle

Is the learning in this activity creative?

No	Somewhat	Yes
Learning involves finding solutions to questions or problems with a single, predetermined answer.	Students have some agency in finding solutions to more complex questions, problems, or challenges.	Students instigate research; develop ideas, solutions, and products; and share creations with authentic audiences.

How effectively did the lesson incorporate different aspects of 21st century learning?

Adapting lessons for 21st century learning

Step 1: Navigate to the shared folder and join the same breakout

group you were in previously

Step 2: Open the Google Doc corresponding to your group

Step 3: Brainstorm ideas about how to adapt the lesson so that it

might better incorporate each dimension of 21st century learning

How might we make the learning in this activity more creative?

How might we help students instigate research; develop ideas, solutions, and products; and share creations with authentic audiences?

How could you adapt the lesson to better incorporate different aspects of 21st century learning?

Connect: How do the ideas and information you've just heard connect to ideas you already thought about or knew?

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Extend: How has your thinking been extended in some way, taking it in new, further, or deeper directions?

Challenge: What challenges or puzzles have come up in your mind about this topic now that you've been presented with these new ideas and information?

A Challenge to Consider...

Try to apply what we explored today!

Choose a lesson, unit, or project you have used in the past or found online, evaluate it, adapt it, and implement it.

Don't worry about focusing on too many dimensions – choose a few of the aspects you are most interested in.

Thanks for participating!

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