

6 Degrees of Separation

A Creative Thinking Tool

Science Version

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Miligram's social network experiment (Harvard 1967)

Stanley Miligram sent packages to real people at wrong addresses across the US with instructions to pass on to the addressee or someone who was more likely to know them

The average chain length of those that reached their destination was 5.5 / 6 links

This led to the notion of '6 degrees of separation' – human social networking theory predicts that any two people can connect to each other in some way using six linking statements

Can this principle be used to develop creative and lateral thinking skills in the classroom?

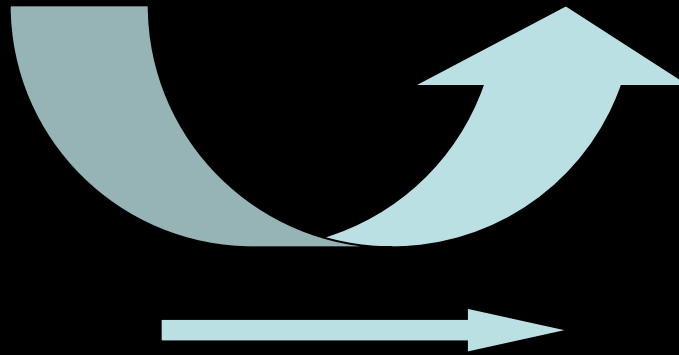
Link the two pictures together
by six steps or statements



Caterpillar



Candle



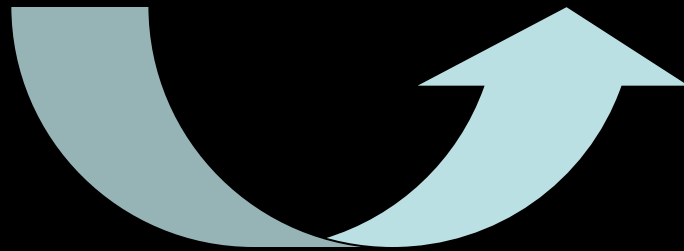
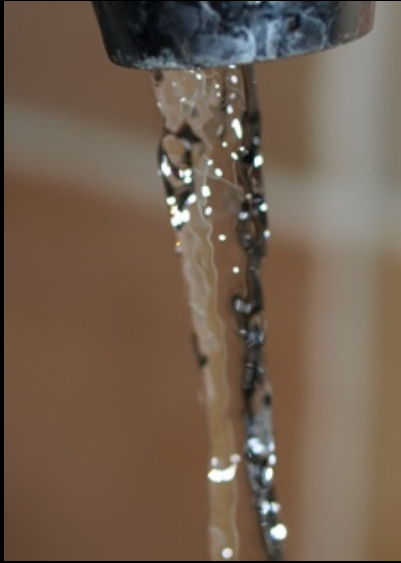
In 6 steps...



A response from a Y10 pupil

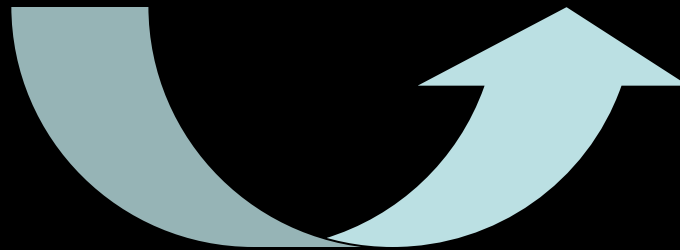


1. A caterpillar is the larva of a butterfly
2. Butterflies are insects which are classified as animals
3. Animals respire in order to provide themselves with energy
4. Energy can exist in many forms
5. One form of energy is thermal energy
6. Thermal energy and light energy are produced when a candle burns



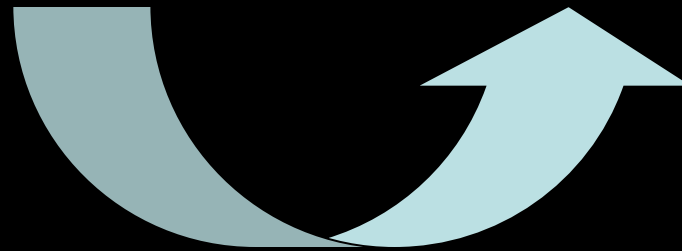
Water

Gold



Egg

Cat



Fossil shark
teeth

Electricity



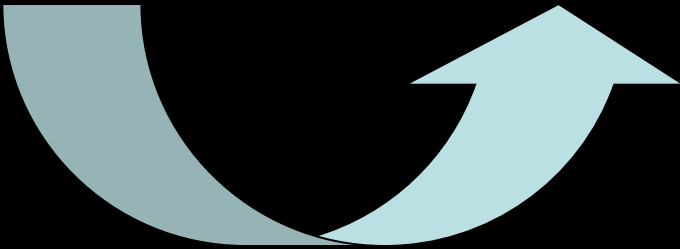
GlaxoWellcome

() mass numbers of most stable isotope

* LANTHANUM SERIES

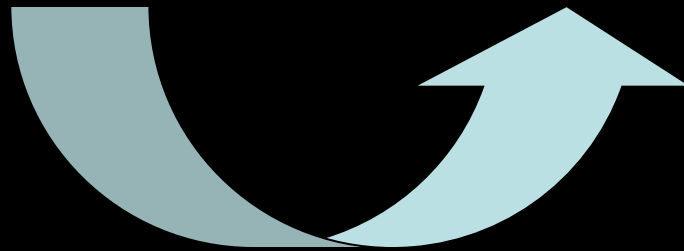
* ACTINIUM SERIES

1	2											13	14	15									
1	H											5	B	C	N								
2	Li	Be											6	Si	P								
3	Na	Mg											7	Al	S								
4	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As								
5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb								
6	Cs	Ba	*La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi								
7	Fr	Ra	*Ac											81	82	83	84						
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Soil

Leaf

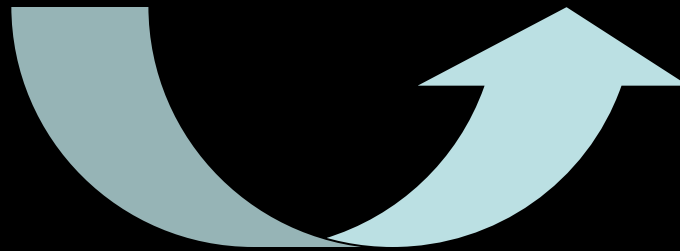


Time

Speed



Clouds



Low energy
light bulb