



Love for Lahaina

Learning Targets

- Empathize with people impacted by fires in Hawaii
- Collaborate with peers to determine how to help

Standards

- NFTE Mindsets – Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Future Orientation
- CASEL: Social Awareness
- UN SDG 15 – Life on Land
- ISTE: 1.7 Global Collaborator

Age Range

- 4th grade and up

Time Commitment

- 30 minutes



On August 8-9, 2023, hurricane-fueled winds fed fires on the island of Maui, making it one of the top 10 deadliest wildfires in the US since 1871 (National Fire Protection Association). The historic town of Lahaina was destroyed, and as of August 21, 2023, over 100 people were known to have perished and over 2,000 buildings were destroyed. Fire is the type of natural disaster that impacts all parts of life – work, school, healthcare and family time, to name a few. Fire causes people to lose their homes because of destruction, and they are required to evacuate to somewhere not impacted by the fire, but Maui is an island in Hawaii and many people may not have a place to go. This adds stress to the schools, churches, food banks and other institutions helping the displaced families. Both displaced families and those in nearby areas not directly impacted by the fires are experiencing similar problems. In the aftermath of fires, it will take 4-5 years to clean up and rebuild homes, schools, churches, etc. This means many kids might not have access to school, and hospitals often have more patients than space and tools, so injured and sick people aren't getting the care they need. Animals run away from the fire and their families, causing them to be homeless and go hungry. These are just some of the needs that arise in the aftermath of fire, and when you take action to help you will make a difference.



Your Challenge

Determine how you can take action to make a difference.

First you must decide what needs you want to impact. Does anyone in your school or neighborhood have a family member or friend who has been impacted by fire? Who are the people in Hawaii who need your help? Are there kids in Maui who could use your help? What organizations are already helping? What needs are they filling and how can you contribute?

Do you know what it's like to be hungry and want to help people have food to eat? Do you know what it is like to feel afraid and want to help the Hawaiian kids feel safe? Are you concerned about kids having books to read or clothes to wear? Have you lost a pet or seen homeless animals and want to help them find their pets or adopt pets who've lost their family? If a child lost a friend or has to go to a new school, do you know how they feel?

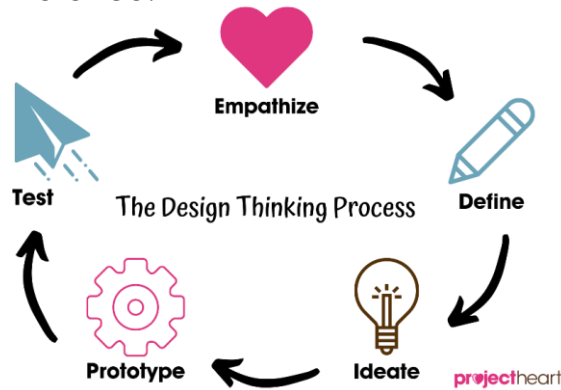
How will you use your 3Ts (time, talent and treasure) to make a difference? Are there items you can make or collect to send? Is there a service or product you can sell to raise money for a cause that speaks to your heart related to these fires? Are there lawmakers in your town or state who you can write to and ask them for help? Do you have fires in your state, too? Maybe you can learn from Maui to help prevent these tragedies in the future! Can you write to companies to convince them to help in a specific way? Can you and your friends devise a campaign to encourage others to care about this cause and join in your efforts? Can you host an event to get more people involved?

Helpful websites could be

- <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/maui-wildfires-facts-faqs-how-to-help#fire> (Facts, FAQs and how to help)
- <https://hawaiiactionstrategy.org/maui-wildfire-resources> (trusted organizations)
- <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/story/maui-fire-victims-afar-organizations-efforts-underway-102163813> (video 1:35 and article with research links)
- <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/maui-children-face-grief-destruction-schools-start-up-after-wildfire-2023-08-19/> (article w/ photos)
- <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2023/red-cross-helps-as-wildfires-burn.html> (Red Cross)
- <https://www.nps.gov/places/lahaina-historic-district.htm> (more about the importance of Lahaina)

Getting Started

To effectively create change, you need to follow a plan of action. We use the Design Thinking Process to help us better understand the problem we see and walk us through steps to creating a plan to make a difference!



The Design Thinking Process



Empathize

To **empathize** means to understand and share the feelings of another. As it relates to the design thinking process and [Project Heart](#), to empathize specifically means to learn about the audience or group that you wish to impact.



Define

Define means to share your problem statement with others. As it relates to Project Heart, the define stage of design thinking means you've thought about your personal passions and how to apply the 3Ts of your group to make a greater social impact. The define stage helps you clearly state the need or problem so others can understand.



Ideate

To **ideate** means to form an idea, thought or concept. As it relates to the design thinking process, to ideate specifically means to brainstorm ideas based on what you have learned about your target audience and the point of view or problem statement you have defined. Related to Project Heart, your ideas should also incorporate the specific time, talent and/or treasure that you wish to contribute.



Prototype

To **prototype** means to model or create an example. As it relates to Project Heart, to prototype specifically means to plan out in detail one of your impact project ideas.



Test

To **test** means to check the quality, reliability or performance of something. As it relates to the design thinking process, to test specifically means to gain feedback on your prototype from your target population. As it relates to Project Heart, testing means implementing your plan and reflecting on your success and failures.

Activity

Use the spaces below to work through the design thinking process.

Tips: To build empathy, do some research and interview experts in this area (which can include your peers!). Find out what people impacted by the fires really need. Find out who is already helping and learn from them.

When you decide on your prototype idea, remember to access the Illumination Fund for materials funding or a matching donation to a U.S. based non-profit

<https://myprojectheart.org/illumination-fund>



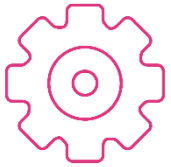
Empathize



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Ideate



Prototype



Test

Reflect