What is SCAMPER?
SCAMPER

is a thinking strategy!
It helps you think of many new ideas, and it’s very easy to learn!
Each letter stands for a different word. These words help you think of new ideas!
You can use this thinking strategy to come up with new ideas for objects, ways of doing things, or almost anything!

Let’s try it!
Let's first pick an object or idea to S.C.A.M.P.E.R.!

Hmmm... anything?

How about a chair?
Okay, let’s use S.C.A.M.P.E.R. to think of new ideas for a chair!
The S in S.C.A.M.P.E.R. stands for SUBSTITUTE.

To substitute means to "take the place of" or "to put something else in its place."
...like a SUBSTITUTE teacher who takes the place of your regular teacher!
What could we **SUBSTITUTE** on a chair?

We could substitute something in place of the **legs**!
What could we **SUBSTITUTE** on a chair?

We could substitute something in place of the **seat**!
What could we SUBSTITUTE on a chair?

What could we substitute in place of the back?
What could we SUBSTITUTE for a chair?

Many things would work as a substitute for a chair!
The C in S.C.A.M.P.E.R stands for COMBINE.

What could be combined with a chair?
What could we **COMBINE** with a chair?
The A in S.C.A.M.P.E.R. stands for ADAPT.

To adapt something means to think about how the object could be used or changed to work in a new situation.
How could we **ADAPT** a chair so that it works in a new situation?
The M in S.C.A.M.P.E.R. stands for MODIFY.

To modify something means to change its form by making it bigger, smaller, or changing its shape.
How could we **MODIFY** a chair?

...make it bigger?

...or Smaller?
How else could we MODIFY a chair?

...make it taller?

...or shorter?
The P in S.C.A.M.P.E.R. stands for PUT TO OTHER USES.

A chair is designed to be a seat. But could it be used as something else?
What other uses could a chair have?
The E in S.C.A.M.P.E.R. stands for ELIMINATE.

To eliminate means to remove. What could be eliminated from a chair?
What could be eliminated from a chair?
The R in S.C.A.M.P.E.R. stands for REARRANGE or REVERSE.

Could the parts of a chair be arranged differently or reversed?
What could be rearranged on a chair?

This presentation was adapted and extended from a free resource found at

Big Ideas for Little Scholars

RESOURCES for GIFTED & ADVANCED LEARNERS

More free resources available here

BIGIDEAS4LITTLESchOLARS.COM
Your Turn!

Now you try it by yourself. Use the S.C.A.M.P.E.R. creative thinking technique to change some items into brand new ideas. Use this worksheet to practice scampering. Remember that you DO NOT have to change your item in each of the ways. Choose the way that helps you come up with an idea you are proud of.
Now let’s take some time to think about something very important to most kids.

PLAYGROUNDS!
Let’s do a little research. I want to show you some creatively designed playgrounds from around the world.
In Japan you can bounce through a net forest!

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LANDER, ALAMY STOCK PHOTO
You can climb an interactive sculpture in Missouri.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SERHII CHRucky, ALAMY STOCK PHOTO
You can get a giant’s perspective among the skyscrapers of New York.
You can set sail on a pirate ship inspired by Peter Pan in London.
You can enter other realms in Oklahoma.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OLE BARSULD NIELSEN, MONSTRUM
You can slide down Gulliver in Spain.
You can scale a towering Godzilla in Japan.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDIA, ALAMY STOCK PHOTO
You and your friends who use wheelchairs can whirl around together on this playground in Virginia.
I THINK YOU ARE READY FOR YOUR PROJECT NOW!
Dream Playground Design Project

Today's project will be an engineering design challenge. You will get into a group and it will be your group's job to design a dream playground. You will use the engineering design process to create a paper model of your dream playground.
Dream Playground Design Project

Ask
What kind of playground do you want to design? Indoors? Outdoors? Who is it for? A specific aged child? A specific group of children? What kind of playground equipment do you want it to have?

Imagine
What kind of theme could it have? What colors do you want to use? What will it look like?

Plan
Use your planning paper to S.C.A.M.P.E.R some playground equipment with your group. Plan out your ideas together.

Create
Construct the model of your group’s dream playground.

Improve
Reflect on your design. Write about it. Make changes as needed.
Dream Playground Design Project

Directions
1. Plan out your design ideas with your group.
2. Build your playground on top of your cardboard base.
3. Imagine that the equipment is the perfect size for a lego minifigure to play on.
4. Make your playground equipment out of the paper and recyclable material your teacher provides.
5. When you finish building the model playground, reflect on your work by writing about it.

Follow these rules when you are working in a group!

- Get along
- Respect others
- On task
- Use quiet voices
- Participate