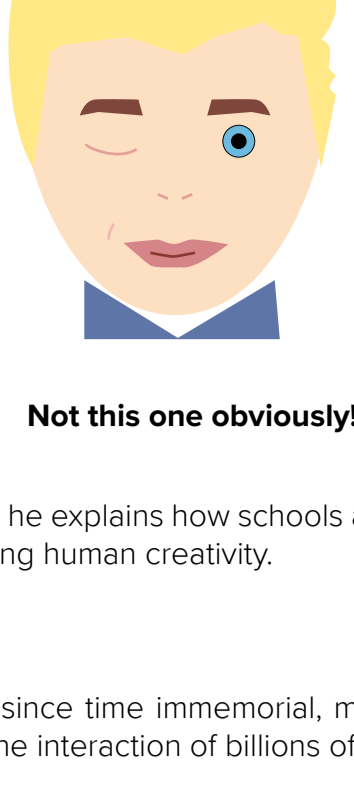


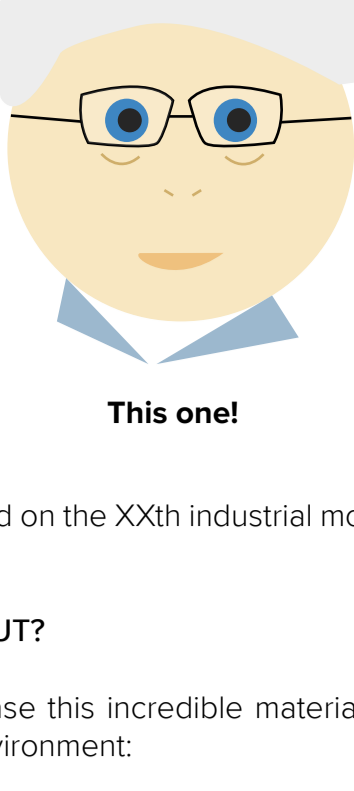
What if we stopped learning?

Reading Time: 10 minutes and 44 seconds

About 10 years ago, a guy named Ken Robinson did an amazing TED Talk.



Not this one obviously!

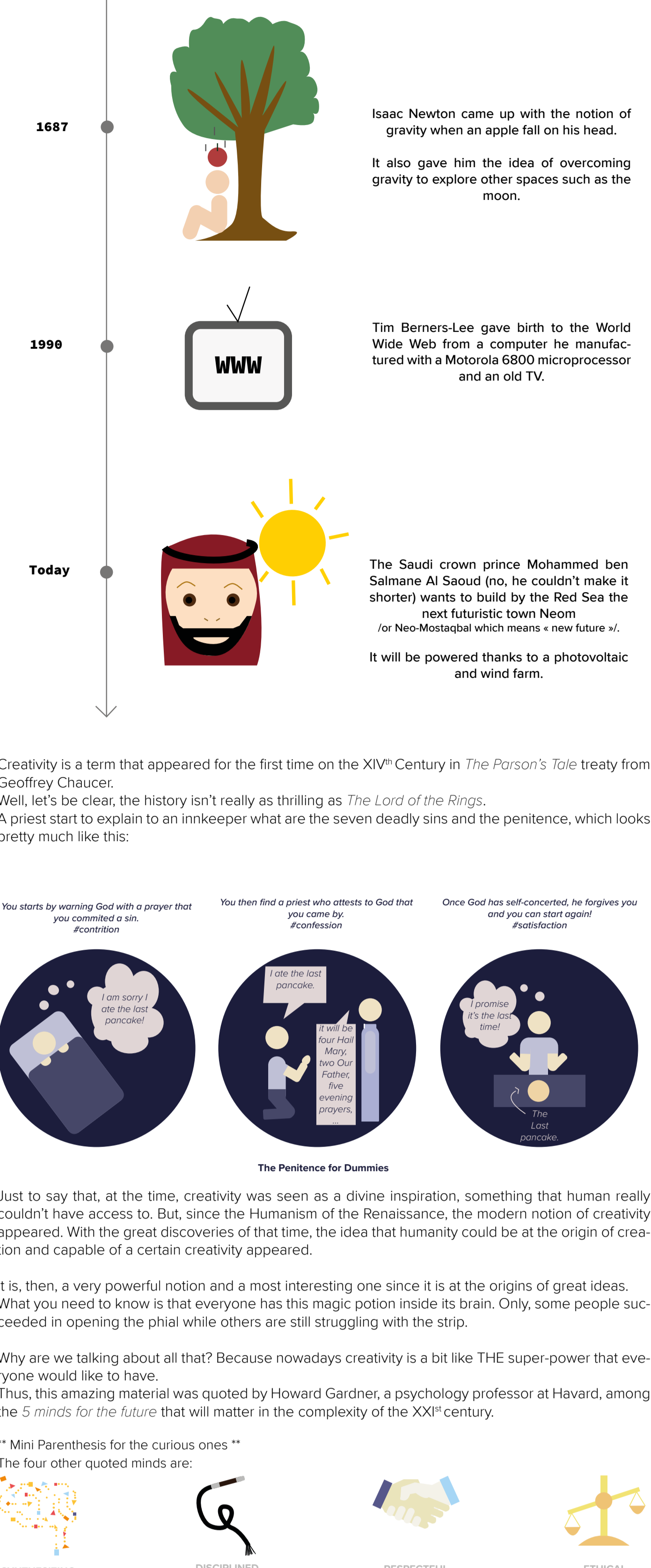


This one!

In this talk he explains how schools and companies, based on the XXth industrial model, are slowly but surely killing human creativity.

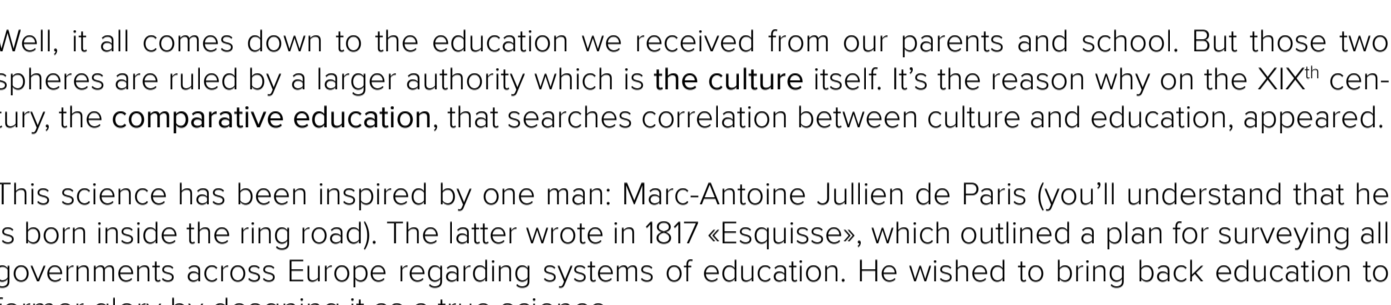
THE CREA-WHUT?

Basically, since time immemorial, men and women release this incredible material named creativity, result of the interaction of billions of neurons with the environment:



Creativity is a term that appeared for the first time on the XIVth Century in *The Parson's Tale* from Geoffrey Chaucer.

Well, let's be honest, the history isn't really as thrilling as *The Lord of the Rings*. A priest start to explain to an innkeeper what are the seven deadly sins and the penitence, which looks pretty much like this:



The Penitence for Dummies

Just to say that, at the time, creativity was seen as a divine inspiration, something that human really couldn't have access to. But, since the Humanism of the Renaissance, the modern notion of creativity appeared. With the great discoveries of that time, the idea that humanity could be at the origin of creation and capable of a certain creativity appeared.

It is, then, a very powerful notion and a most interesting one since it is at the origins of great ideas. What you need to know is that everyone has this magic potion inside its brain. Only, some people succeeded in opening the phial while others are still struggling with the strip.

Why are we talking about all that? Because nowadays creativity is a bit like THE super-power that everyone would like to have.

Thus, this amazing material was quoted by Howard Gardner, a psychology professor at Harvard, among the 5 *minds for the future* that will matter in the complexity of the XXIst century.

** Mini Parenthesis for the curious ones **
The four other quoted minds are:



** End of the mini parenthesis **

Creativity is, in the end, the necessary ability to discover and clarify new problems, questions and phenomena. So, in a world that is constantly evolving and moving because of new technologies and the fast technical progresses, it would be more than welcome to know how to use it daily... !

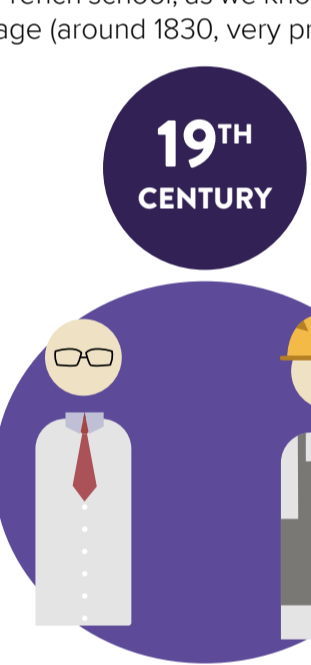
HOW TO SUCCEED AT OPENING THE CREATIVITY PHIAL?

Remember when we were saying that some people didn't succeed at uncorking this damned phial?

Well, it all comes down to the education we received from our parents and school. But those two spheres are ruled by a larger authority which is the culture itself. It's the reason why on the XIXth century, the comparative education, that searches correlation between culture and education, appeared.

This science has been inspired by the work of Marc-Antoine Jullien de Paris (you'll understand that he is born inside the ring road). The latter wrote in 1817 «Esquisse», which outlined a plan for surveying all governments across Europe regarding systems of education. He wished to bring back education to former glory by designing it as a true science.

"Education, like all other arts and sciences, is composed of facts and observations. It thus seems necessary to produce for this science, as has been done for the other branches of knowledge, collections of facts and observations arranged in analytical tables, so that these facts and observations can be compared and certain principles and definite rules deduced from them, so that education may become an almost positive science."



Then, some big national organisations (such as UNESCO or the International Bureau of Education) took this initiative back. They have been commissioned to organise educational comparative studies between countries to make educative and societal systems better.

To do so, they've studied different cultures along with topics such as politics, economics, religion, linguistics, ...

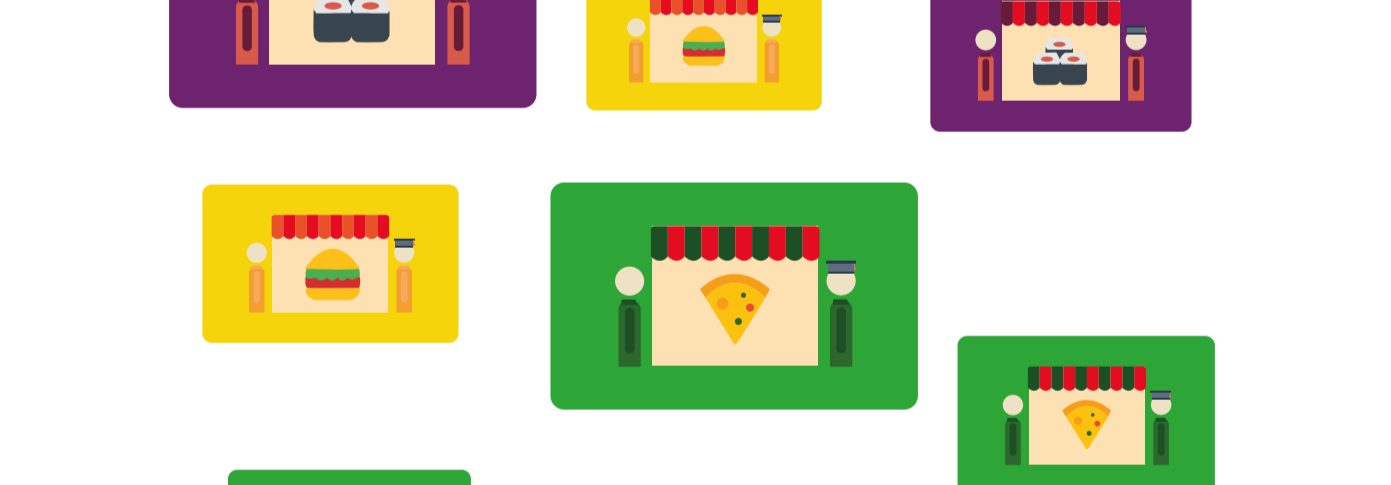
To give you a small exemple of what could be observed:

Differences in school bullying by continent



The role of languages in education

Thâm Khôi Lê. L'Éducation, cultures et sociétés, 1991 (sorry, couldn't find any english version. You'll have to learn French now!)



In Indian castes, the Brahmins developed their exclusive language, Sanskrit, metaphorically termed "the language of the gods", which was different from that of the people called prakrit. Therefore, lower castes had no access to higher education.

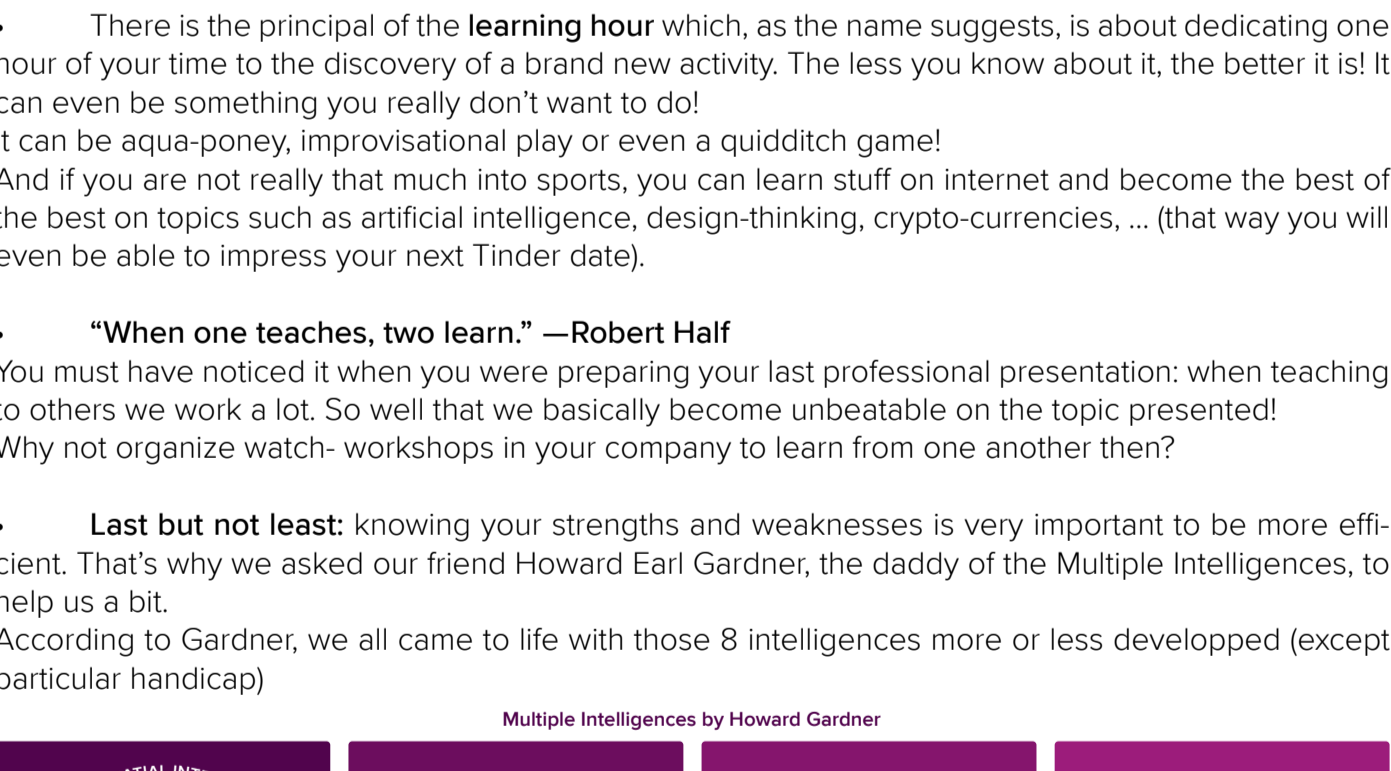
In China, the classical Han detached itself from the everyday language to become an unintelligible literary chinese. You could not understand it unless you saw it written before your eyes. The comprehension of this language was thus reserved to the lettered persons who could only read it and write it after long studies.

In Greece, Conservative decreed for a long time that only a clever and archaic language named CATHA(roughous) should be spoken in schools. (Promise, we will avoid to make a bad joke but it was kind of CATHA(roughous)) School was thus inaccessible to people speaking the common language called DEMOTIKI (one must know that DEMONstration was easier)

In the end, education is intrinsically linked to the culture and history of each country. The school was built from historical needs but those have changed. It is now a matter of providing an education that responds to current issues.

** Historical note **

French school, as we know it today, was born with François Guizot and Jules Ferry in the first industrial revolution age (around 1830, very precisely). At that time, needs were totally different from those we can observe today.



The job market was in need of: - qualified labor to work in factories

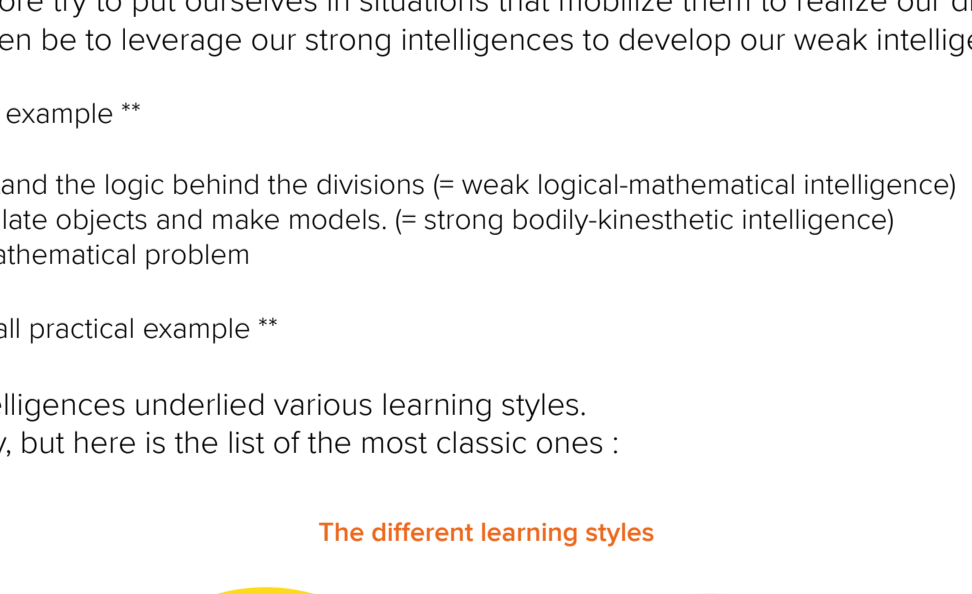
Individuals are differentiated little by little by their ability to adapt to a changing world where robots are gradually replacing workers' job. It then seems necessary to acquire transversal and multidisciplinary knowledge.

Creativity is, more than ever, topical when we estimate that 75 % of jobs that will exist within 15 years don't exist today.

** End of the historical note **

Despite those needs in complete contradiction, no real evolution has ever been made in this field. That's the reason why our little Ken (the one we talked about in the introduction) explains that actual school, created according to standardized fast-food model, is in need of a real revolution.

Indeed, there is no point in applying reforms to a totally archaic model. This revolution will have to free the talent and creativity of each person, today constrained by an education where mathematics and science are worshiped and where art and music, among others, are considered as extra-curricular activities.

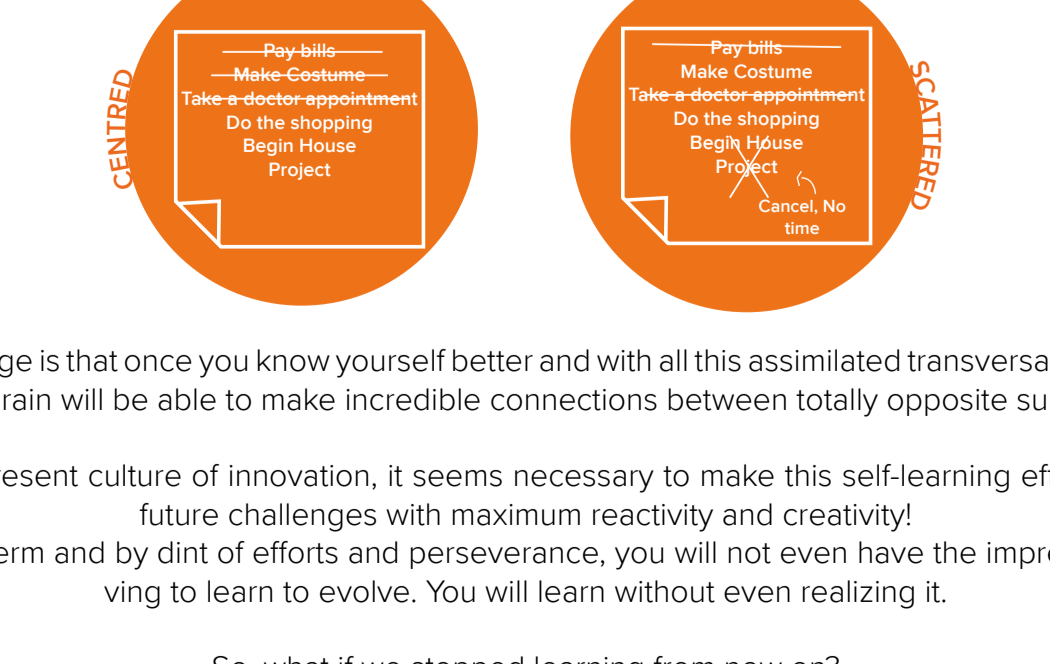


TODAY

< My contention is that creativity now is as important in education as literacy, and we should treat it with the same status. >
Ken Robinson

Why are we saying all this? Today, it's not that we don't know how to open our creativity phial. The one and only problem is that no one ever told us that it was even existing. With modern education, we even learn to totally ignore it. If we were today the Neanderthals of whom we speak at the beginning of this paper, not sure that we would have had the idea of rubbing two stones to heat us up!

It is, more than ever, time to go from a standardized fast food educational model to a self-manufactured autonomous educational model.



GOAL

DO I TURN INTO A SUPERHERO ONCE I'VE UNCORKED THE PHIAL?

Without going that far, you still become a super-spirit!

Creativity comes from everywhere and nowhere but mostly from the observations you make of your environment... and from your openmindedness. Mostly, creativity is highly correlated to motivation. When you are passionate about something, hours seem to turn into seconds and that's pretty enjoyable (except when your boyfriend or girlfriend tears you away from it to set the table).

So, even if, as the years went, you did not get enough strength to open the phial, nothing prevents you from becoming an athlete from now on!

We give you here some simple and basic principles that could help you (or not) to reveal your innate creativity:

- There is the principal of the **learning hour** which, as the name suggests, is about dedicating one hour of your time to the discovery of a brand new activity. The less you know about it, the better it is! It can even be something you really don't want to do! It can be aqua-poney, improvisational play or even a quidditch game! And if you are not really that much into sports, you can learn stuff on internet and become the best of the best on topics such as artificial intelligence, design-thinking, crypto-currencies, ... (that way you will even be able to impress your next Tinder date).
- **"When one teaches, two learn."** —Robert Half
You must have noticed it when you were preparing your last professional presentation: when teaching to others we work a lot. So well that we basically become unbeatable on the topic presented! Why not organize watch- workshops in your company to learn from one another then?
- **Last but not least:** knowing your strengths and weaknesses is very important to be more efficient. That's why we asked our friend Howard Earl Gardner, the daddy of the Multiple Intelligences, to help us a bit. According to Gardner, we all came to life with those 8 intelligences more or less developed (except particular handicap)

Multiple Intelligences by Howard Gardner

No need to try to be good at everything of course or to do some intelligence test on Internet to know which are the strongest (you would only recruit the verbal-linguistic intelligence, and if it is not really your strong point, tests will be of no use to you, QED). We must therefore try to put ourselves in situations that mobilize them to realize our different abilities. The goal will then be to leverage our strong intelligences to develop our weak intelligences.

** Small practical example **

I can not understand the logic behind the divisions (= weak logical-mathematical intelligence)
+ I like to manipulate objects and make models. (= strong bodily-kinesthetic intelligence)
= Staging of a mathematical problem

** End of the Small practical example **

All of these intelligences underlied various learning styles. There are many, but here is the list of the most classic ones :

The different learning styles

The advantage is that once you know yourself better and with all this assimilated transversal knowledge, your brain will be able to make incredible connections between totally opposite subjects.

In an omnipresent culture of innovation, it seems necessary to make this self-learning effort to thwart future challenges with maximum reactivity and creativity!

In the long term and by dint of efforts and perseverance, you will not even have the impression of having to learn to evolve. You will learn without even realizing it.

So, what if we stopped learning from now on?

"A child educated only at school is an uneducated child."
—George Santayana