



METAPHOR

Discovery



The story you're telling

Adolescence is a critical period of discovery and opportunity.



In more detail

During adolescence, we explore the world around us, mapping out the terrain so we can find our path to adulthood. This is a time of trial and error as we pursue new experiences and different ways of expressing ourselves. That's why we need to create environments where *all* adolescents have room to take positive risks and discover who they are and what they want for their future.

User notes



This metaphor works best when it's used in variety of ways.

Here's how:

- Be creative and express the metaphor in multiple ways.
 - Talk about how we can create opportunities for discovery-based learning.
 - Use the discovery metaphor to talk about identity formation as wilderness exploration.
 - Repetition is powerful.
 - Explain how resources and environments shape opportunities for discovery-based learning.
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Examples:

- “Young people learn by trial and error.”
 - “When we're adolescents, we need opportunities **to test** out new ideas and experiences.”
 - “Adolescence is about **unearthing** new experiences and making sense of them.”
 - “Adolescents need to **experiment**—to try new things where they don't know what the outcome will be.”
 - “Middle school is a **laboratory** of social learning, where young people can **experiment** with relationships, roles, and behaviors to better understand who they are and where they fit in.”
 - “During adolescence, we begin to **explore the world** outside of our family in new ways.”
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Glossary of words that communicate the discovery metaphors

Laboratory	Collecting information	Finding their path
Experiment	Equipment	Heading in a direction
Testing hypotheses	Asking questions	Equip them for
Trying out	Finding the answers	the journey
Figuring out	to questions	Forming and
Exploring	Discovering	testing theories
Unearthing	Mapping out	Think critically
Studying	Navigating new	
	landscapes	