Imaginative Ways of Thinking: Emergent Terms from Literature on Imagination in STEM

High level categories are listed alphabetically (left), and clusters of nuanced terms (right) are sized to roughly relate to their relative incidence across literature reviewed. This representation is for illustrative purposes to highlight the range of terms emergent in this work.

- Associating
- Concept formation
- Creating
- Creativity
- Empathizing
- Embodiment
- Feeling
- Futures thinking
- Hypothesizing
- Innovating
- Mental practice
- Moral thought
- Navigating inconsistency
- Noticing
- Organizing
- Playing
- Perspective taking
- Possibilities thinking
- Problem solving
- Prototyping
- Reflecting
- Representing
- Reproducing
- Self-identification
- Speculating
- Storytelling
- Transforming
- Understanding
- Visualizing
- Wonder

This resource was developed for the ***Unpacking the STEM Imagination*** convening hosted by the Museum of Science, Boston (September, 2021), and presents preliminary results from a comprehensive literature review. Contact Sarah May (smay@mos.org) with any inquiries. This resource was developed by the Museum of Science, Boston, with support from the National Science Foundation under Award #DRL-1906899. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.