

The background is white and filled with various decorative elements: small blue four-pointed stars, larger red and pink star-like shapes, and teal and blue diamond and flower-like geometric patterns.

# ***THE FUTURES BAZAAR***

A PUBLIC IMAGINATION TOOLKIT

**B B C**

 **SITUATION LAB**

A decorative pattern of geometric shapes is arranged horizontally across the teal background. It includes a large white circle with a small dark diamond in the center at the top. Below it, on the left, are a solid light blue circle, a light blue circle with a dark diamond, and another light blue circle with a dark diamond. On the right, there is a light blue circle with a dark diamond, a solid light blue circle, and another light blue circle with a dark diamond. Small dark diamonds are scattered between these larger shapes.

# WELCOME TIME TRAVELLERS



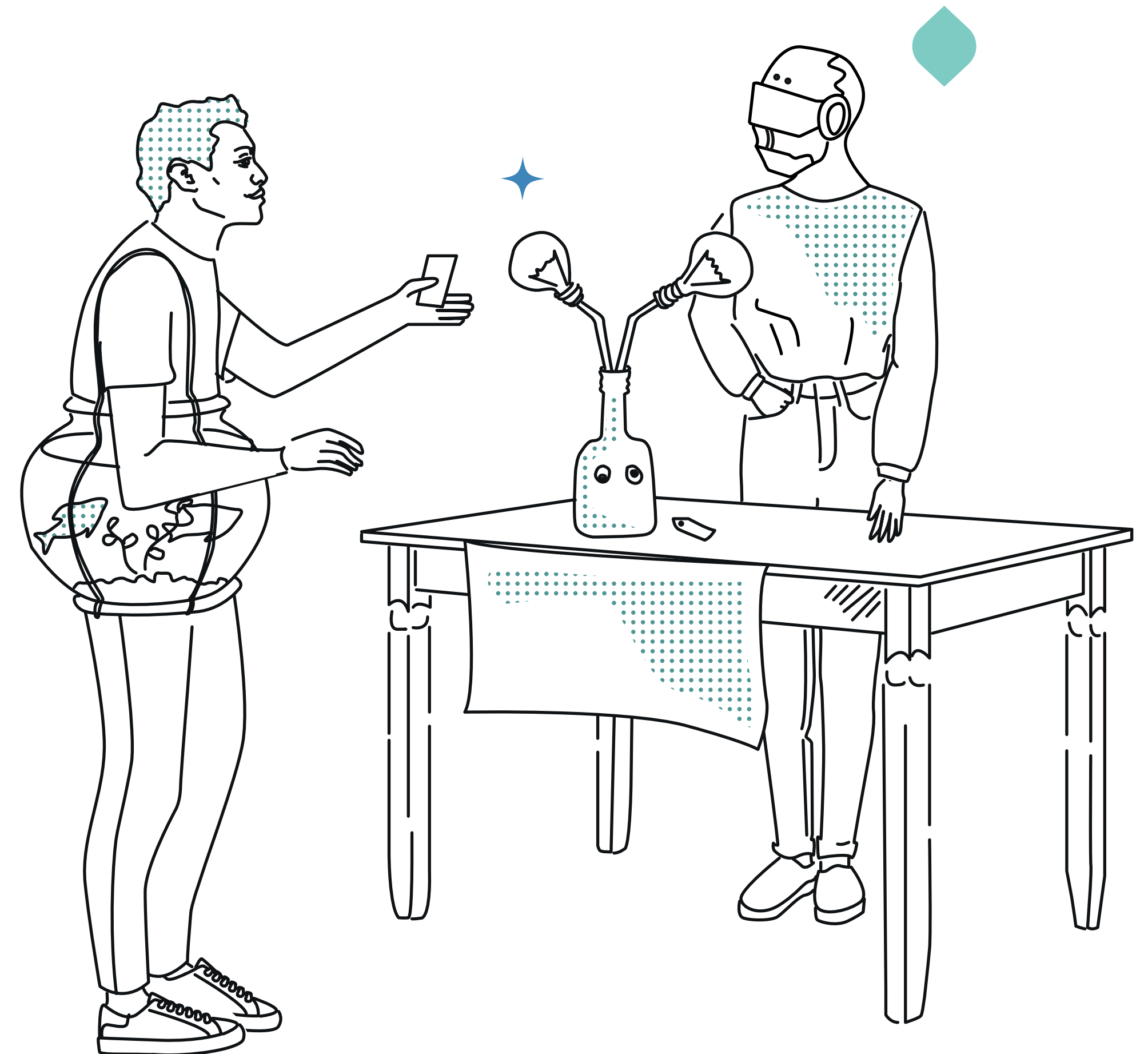
# WHAT IS THE FUTURES BAZAAR?

---

**The Futures Bazaar is a playful process for bringing alternative futures to life.**

As a group, we are going to try thinking about different futures through physical artefacts.

We're here to imagine together, transforming mundane materials found in the present into objects from a diverse set of "what ifs".



# WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

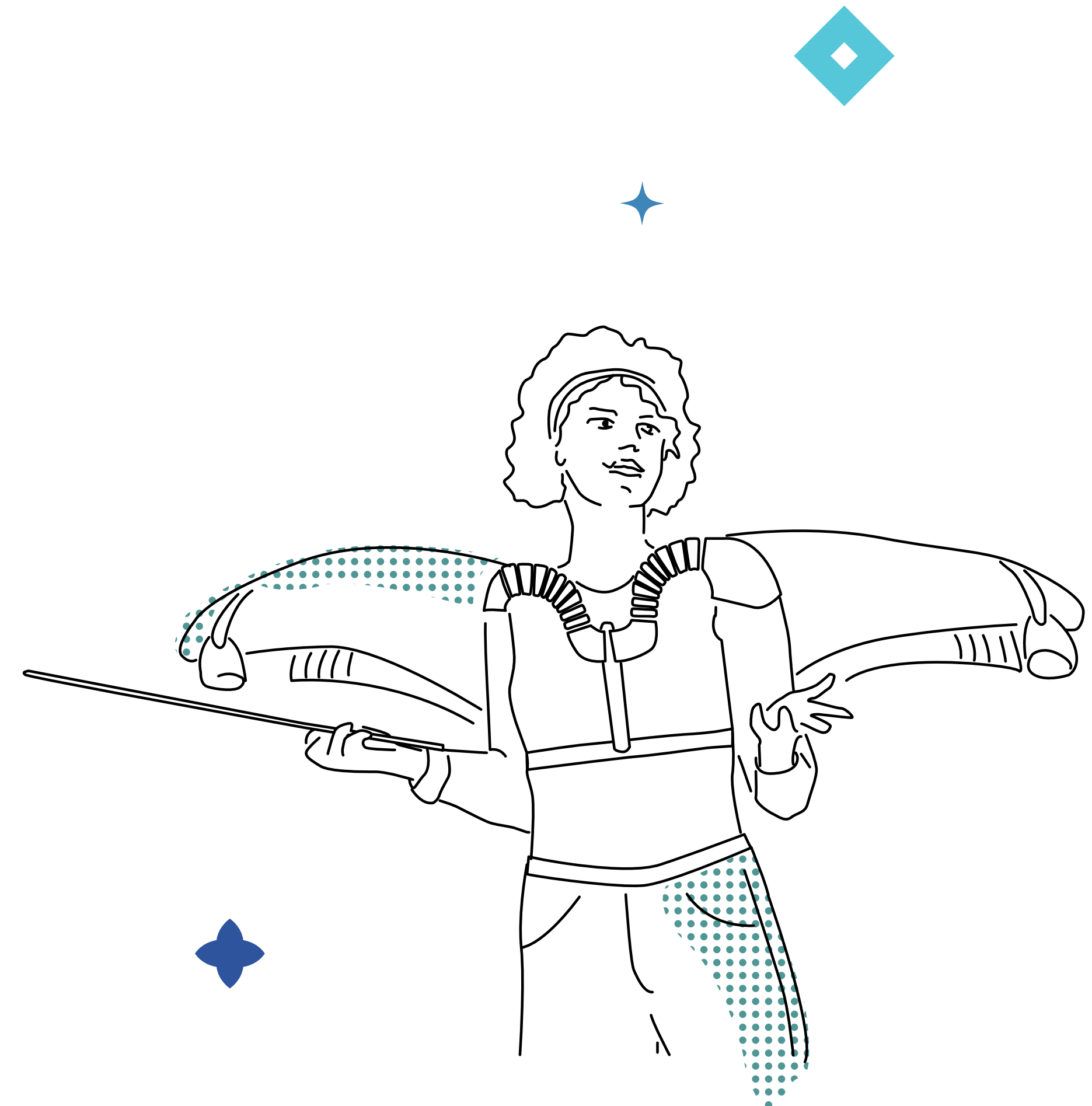
---

## **Play is a powerful way to hone collective imagination – a key to shaping better worlds.**

Just as you might travel to different places in order to have new experiences and see how others live, creating a Futures Bazaar is a way to journey into each other's imaginations.

This could be an on-ramp into getting more comfortable with some of the approaches and methods of alternative futures/foresight as a field.

Or maybe, we'll just have some fun making weird memories together, while incidentally also lowering the bar to thinking more systematically about possible times to come.



# HOW WILL WE DO IT?

---

 **STEP 1**  
**WARM UP**

 **STEP 2**  
**EXPLORE**

 **STEP 3**  
**GATHER**

 **STEP 4**  
**IDEATE**

 **STEP 5**  
**CREATE**

 **STEP 6**  
**SET UP**

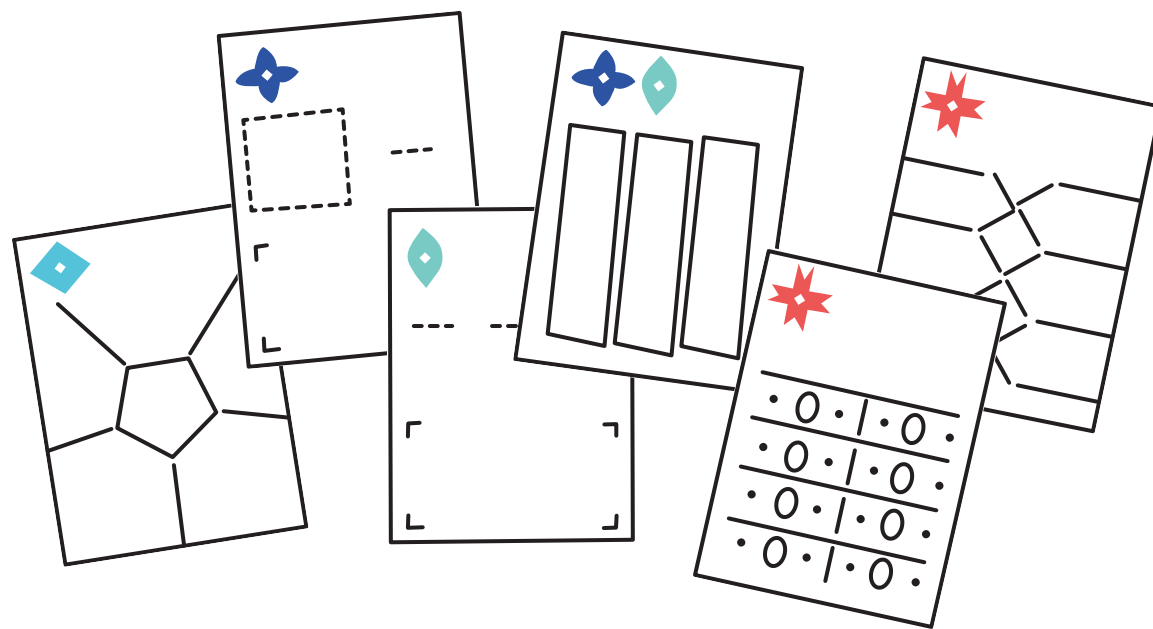
 **STEP 7**  
**RUN**

 **STEP 8**  
**TAKE DOWN**

# WHAT DO WE NEED?

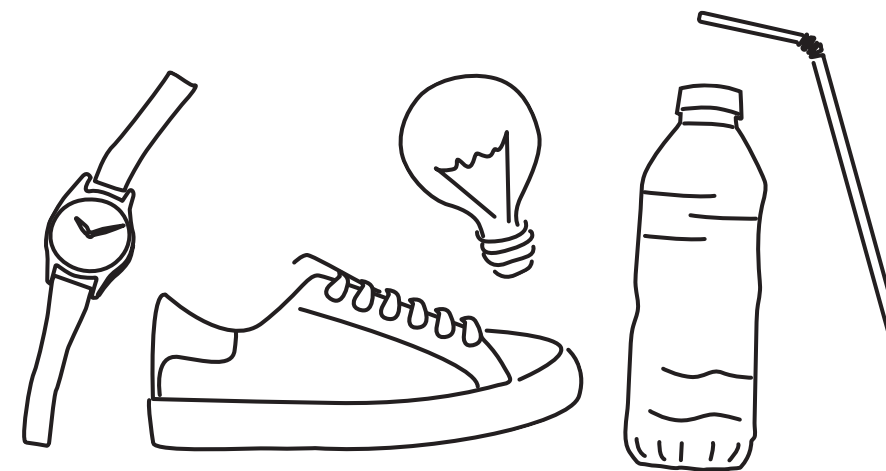
---

**We're going to use a few things along the way. We'll tell you what's needed step by step – but here's a quick overview.**



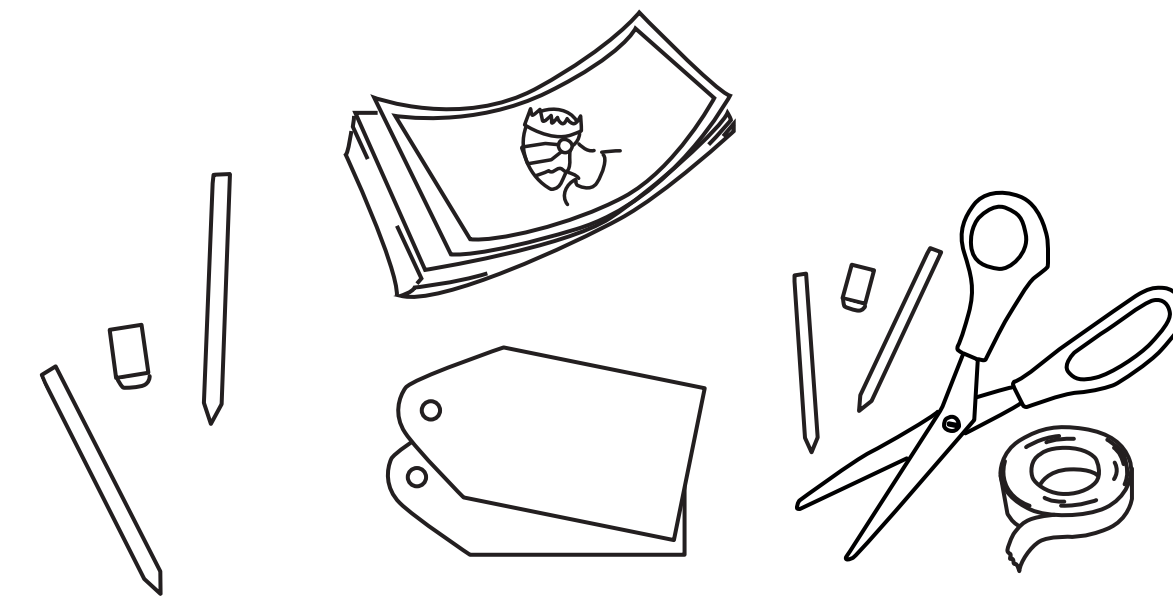
## PRINTOUTS

These will be needed for some steps in the process, and should already be on your table.



## FUTURE FODDER

These items, collected with your help, are to be transformed into future artefacts. These will be brought into play at the right moment.



## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

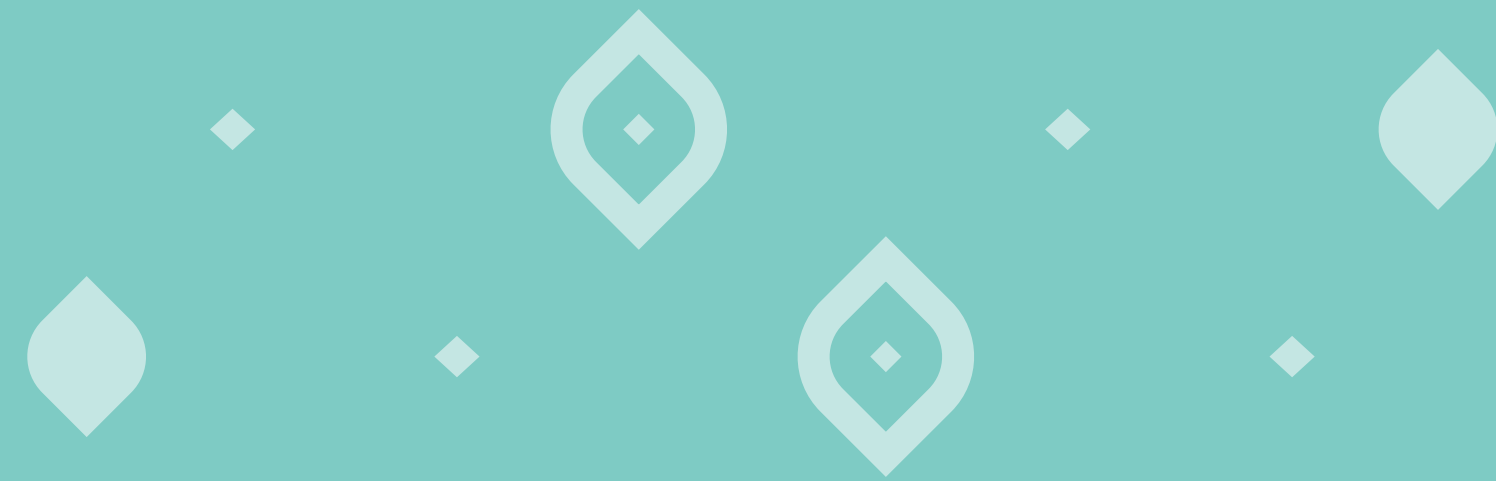
Pens, paper, glue and other items are provided to help you along with the process.



# STEP 1 WARM UP

## Objective

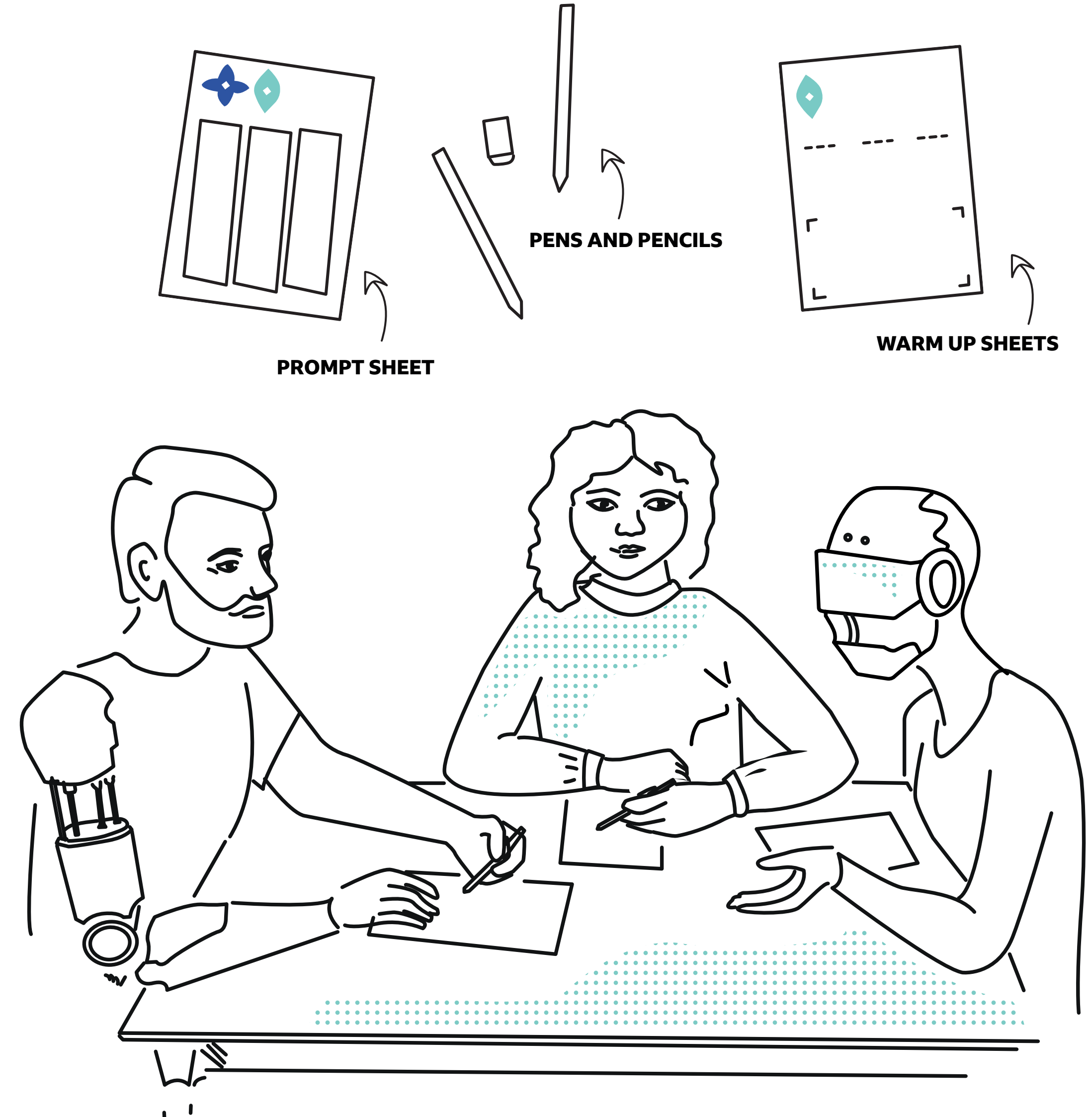
Practise imagining things  
from alternative futures

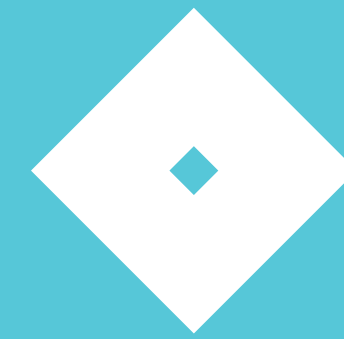


# STEP 1 WARM UP

- Each person, take a Warm Up Sheet.
- Find the person in your team whose birthday is coming up next: they should choose a Future from the team's Prompt Sheet. Moving clockwise, the next person chooses a Thing. The one after chooses a Theme.
- Each person, record the prompt on your Warm Up Sheet, and spend a few minutes separately and silently making up a description and/or sketch of a “thing from the future” inspired by it. Try to be as specific as possible in what you imagine!
- When instructed, transition into sharing and discussing your responses. They may be funny, weird, scary, or thought-provoking – which is the group's favourite future thing?
- We might do another round or two to get the hang of it.

## MATERIALS





# STEP 2 EXPLORE

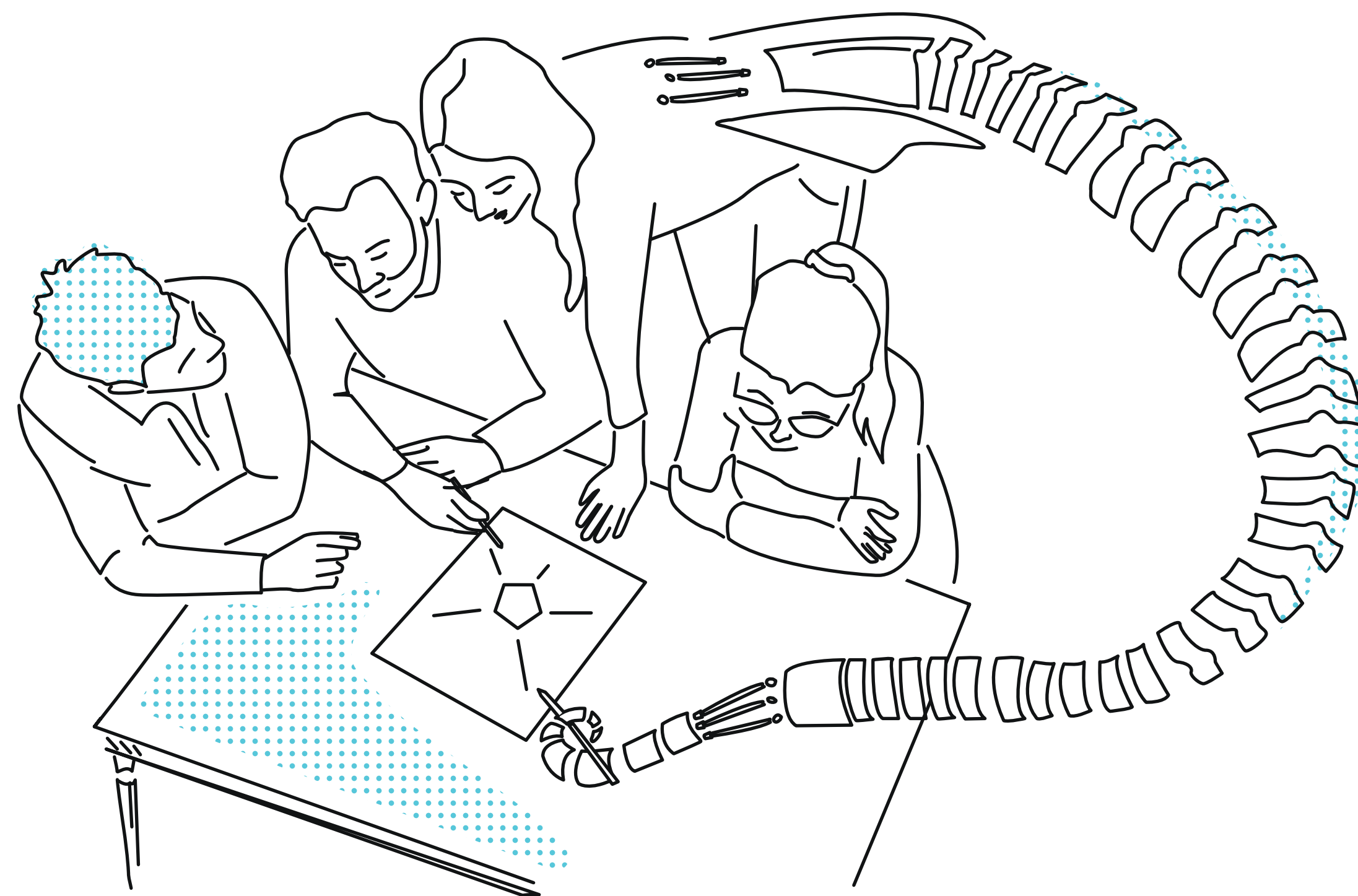
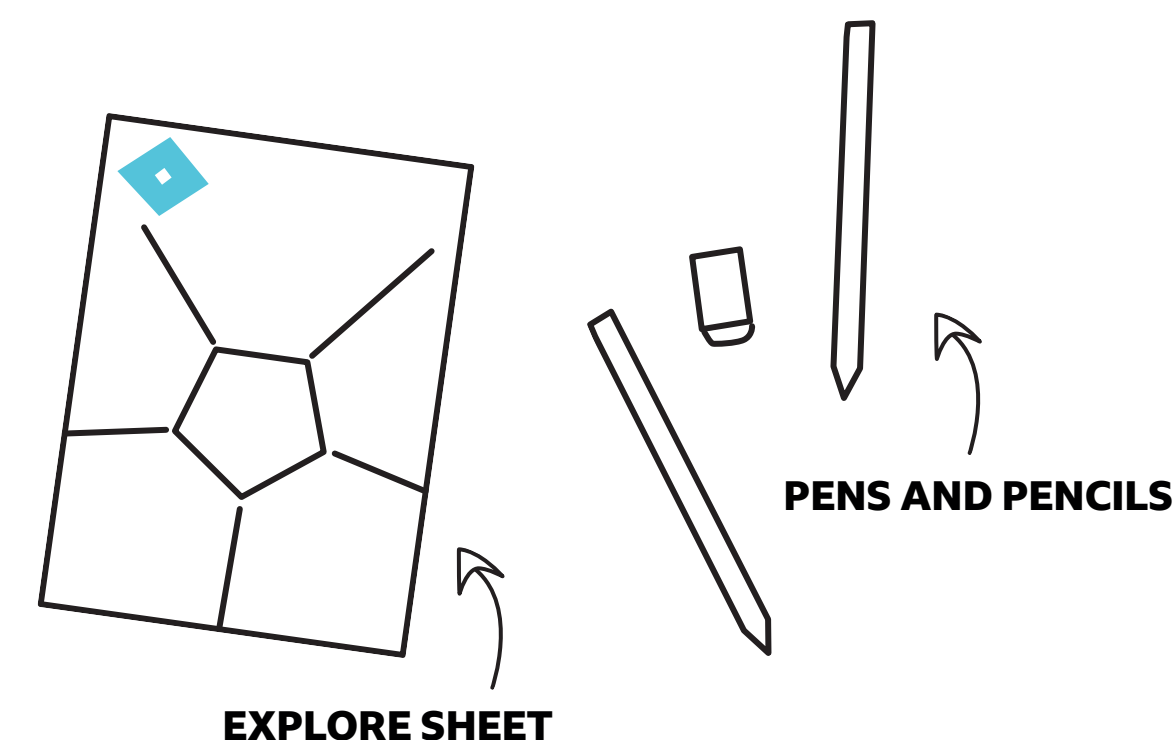
## Objective

Give depth to your team's particular future world by expanding on its implications

# **STEP 2** **EXPLORE**

- Take an Explore Sheet, which you will fill in as a team.
- Reflect on your designated Future, looking a few decades ahead at least. If this type of future were to come about, what kind of society, technology, economy, environment and politics might we see?
- Take turns adding sentences under each heading, in any order. Later answers can build on earlier ones, so you're gradually painting a fuller picture of how this future world looks!
- Be as audacious and creative as you wish – while making sure that what you describe aligns clearly with the kind of Future you've been invited to explore.

## **MATERIALS**





# STEP 3 GATHER

## Objective

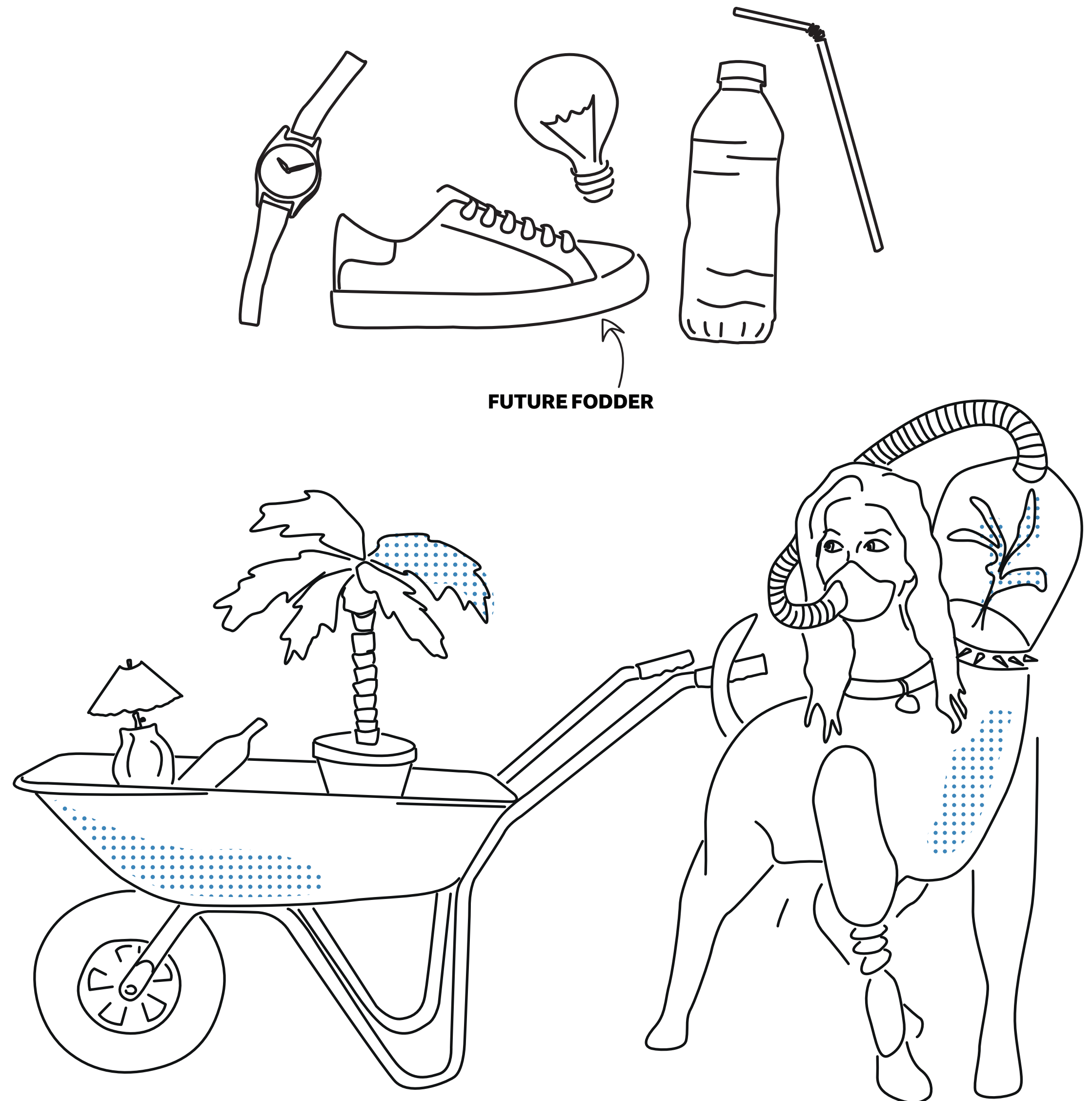
Retrieve the materials with which to  
make artefacts for your stall



## STEP 3 GATHER

- In a moment, one person from each team will go and source one item from the Future Fodder pile. This is the stuff you'll use to create future artefacts for your Bazaar stall!
- Move briskly but safely – walk, don't run – and don't take too long, so that you get back to your table quickly and the next person can go.
- Don't overthink it, but bear the previous step in mind when making your selections – are there any Future Fodder items that evoke a feeling of your particular future?
- Repeat the process until each team has enough items to work with.

### MATERIALS

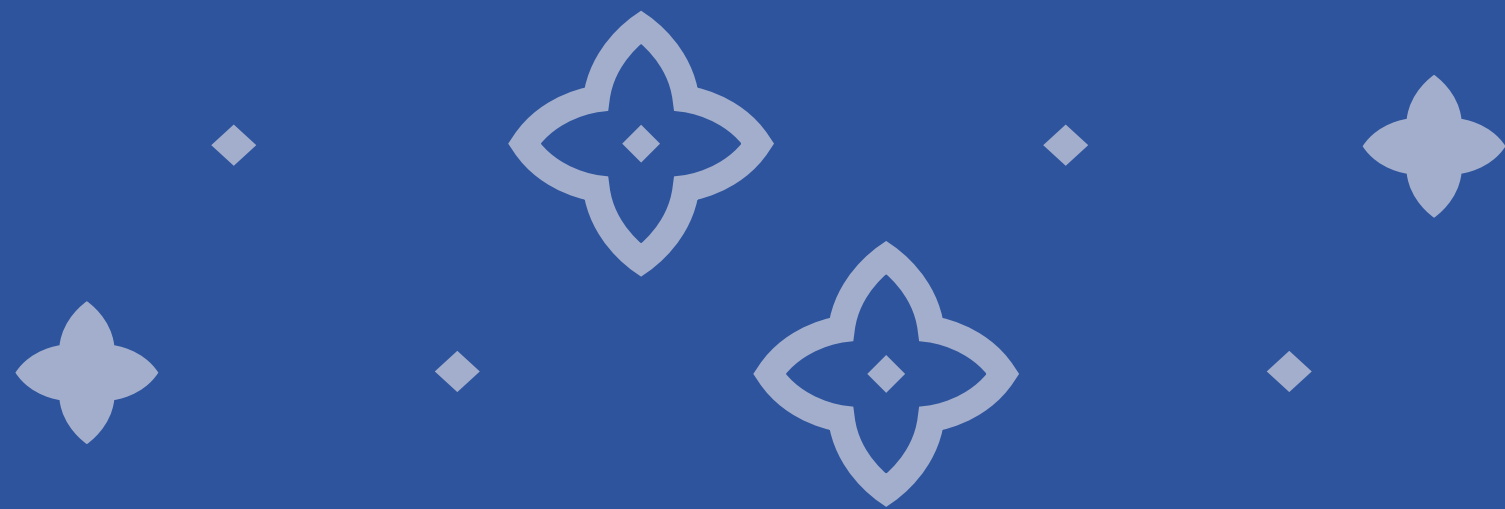




# STEP 4 IDEATE

## Objective

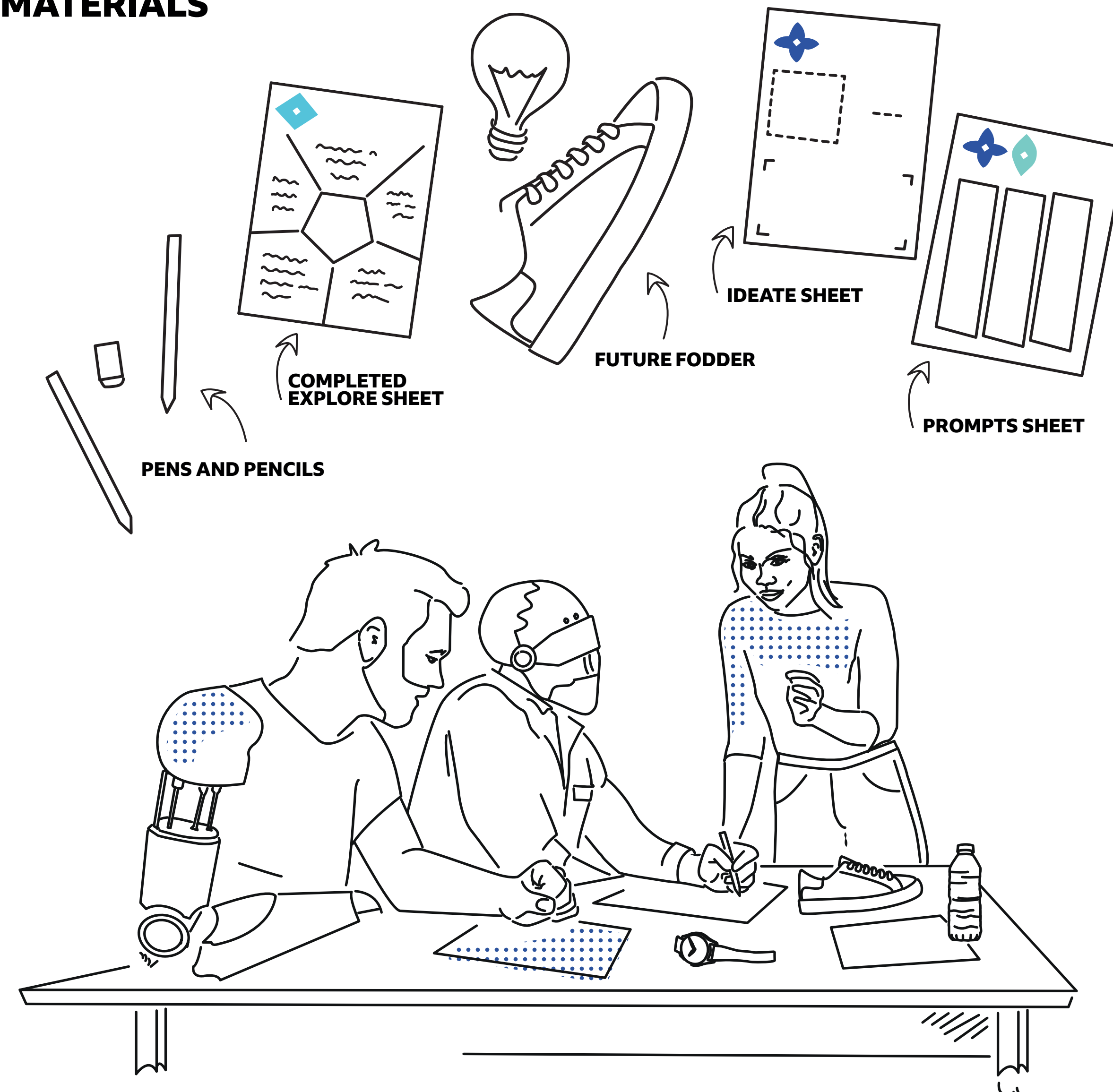
Generate future artefact ideas



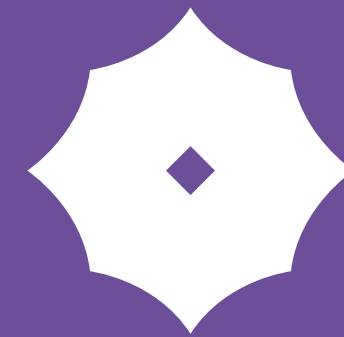
# STEP 4 IDEATE

- As in the Warm Up stage, you will now use unique combinations of Futures, Things and Themes to generate future artefact ideas. But this time, you'll use physical Future Fodder items as part of each prompt.
- Put the (completed) Explore and (blank) Ideate Sheets together to create a prompt. Place one future fodder item at a time in the centre of the prompt.
- Try cycling through different Themes drawn from the Prompt Sheet and ask: how might you reimagine and remake this physical item as a distinctive artefact from your particular future?
- Brainstorm as many ideas as you can for each item.
- Consider the potential for hacking and combining objects too!

## MATERIALS



**BREAK**



# STEP 5 CREATE

## Objective

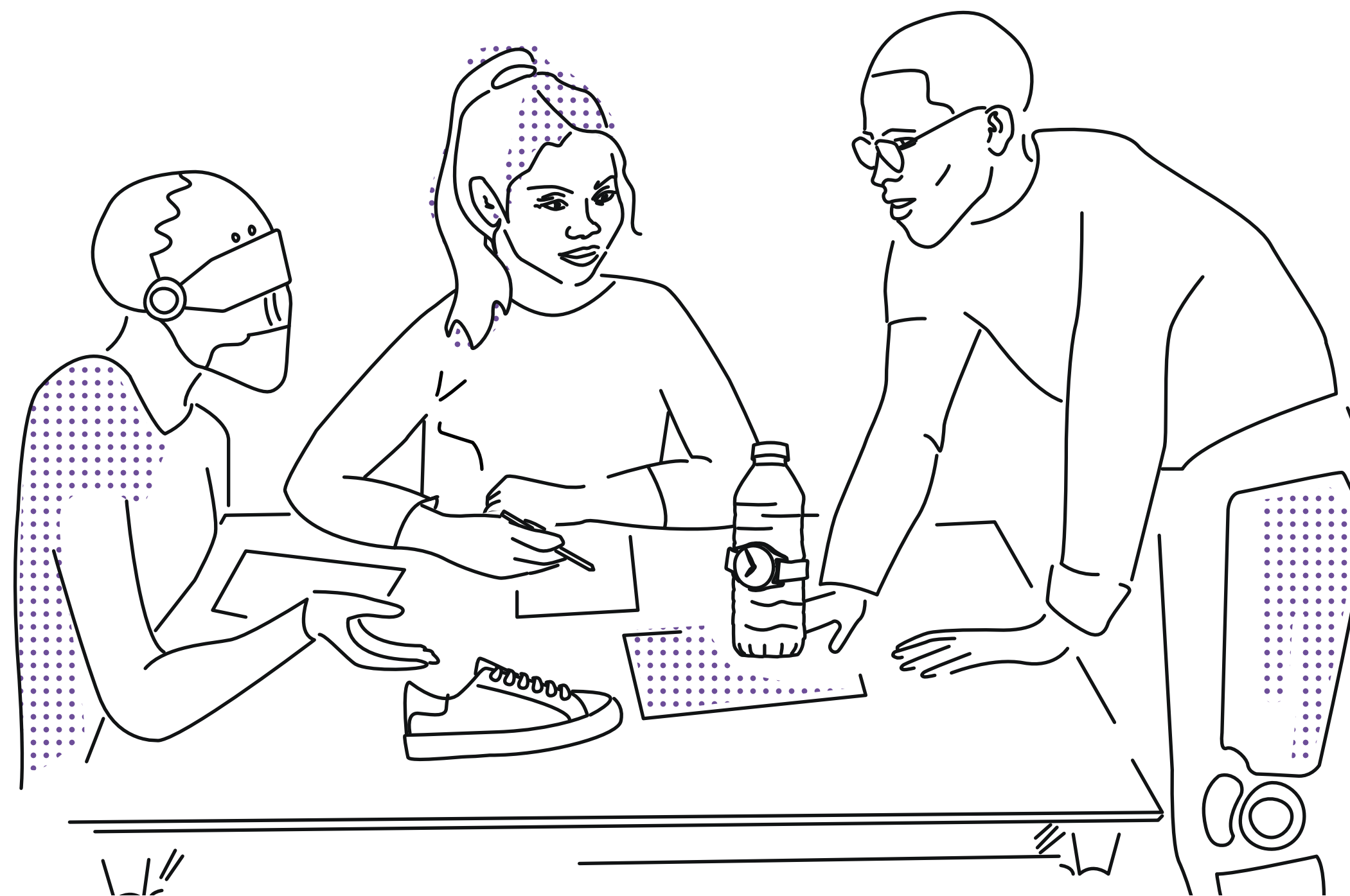
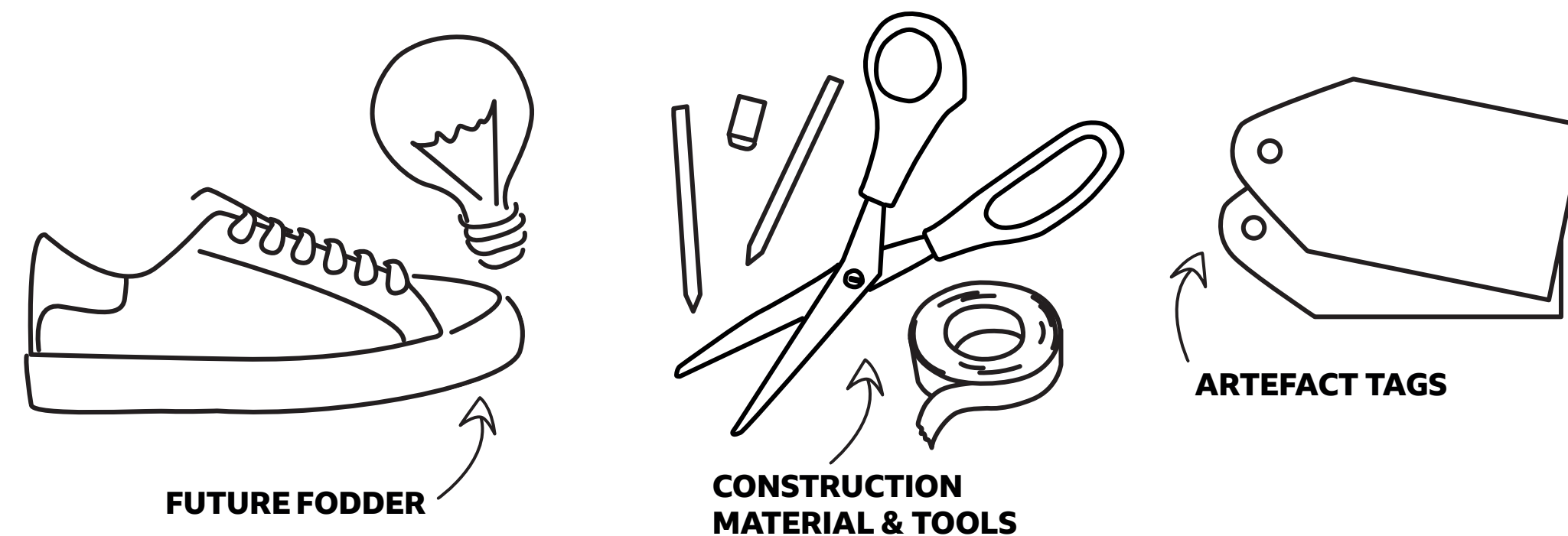
Make and label future artefacts for sale

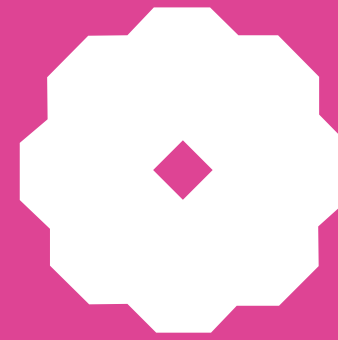


# STEP 5 CREATE

- Channel your creativity! As a team, pick your best ideas. Consider how the candidate artefacts would, both individually and as a set, evoke your designated future.
- Now you can start making future artefacts. Collaborate, or work in parallel; it's your choice. But by the end of this step you should have produced at least 1–2 artefacts per person.
- Use Future Fodder, glue, paper, scissors (etc) to create, alter, mutate and merge items. Or, keep them close to the way they came, and transform their meaning by using the Artefact Tags.
- A final future artefact should let a visitor grasp the story behind it, and how it evokes your future. Remember that each artefact needs its own Tag written from within the perspective of the future where it is for sale.

## MATERIALS

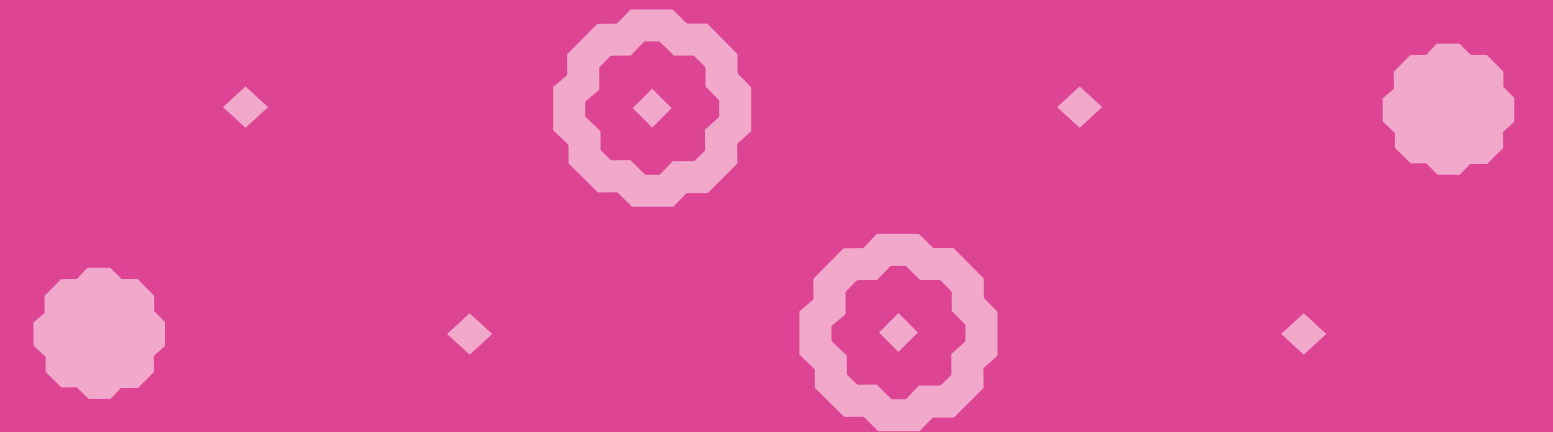
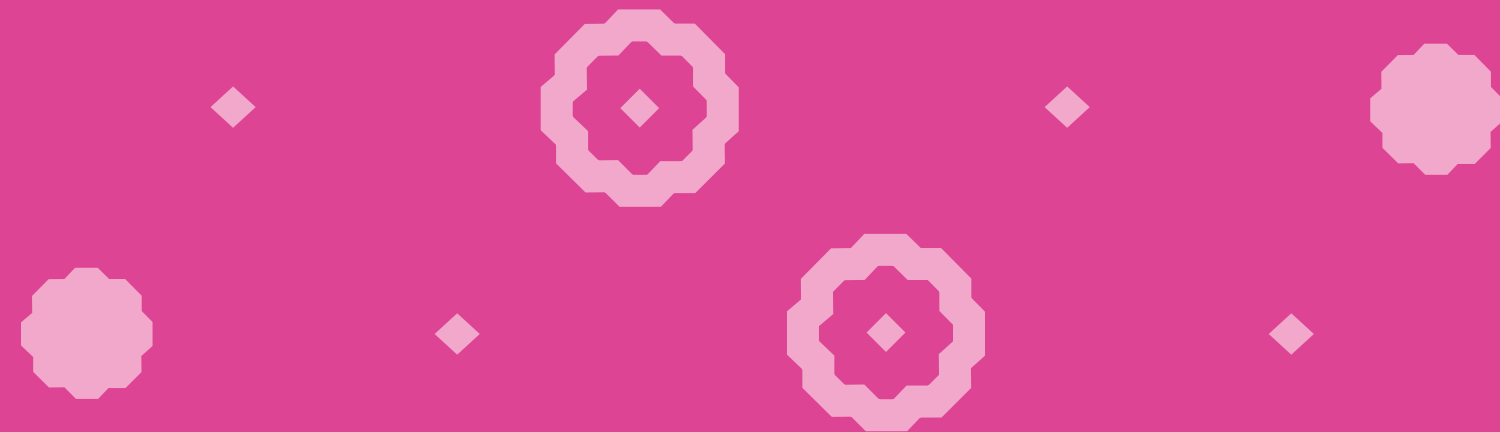




# STEP 6 SET UP

## Objective

Build your teams stall

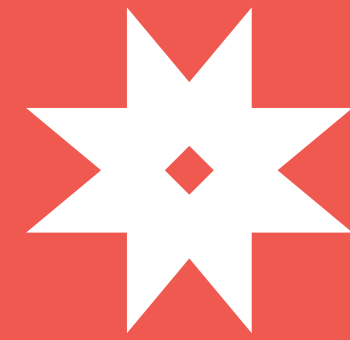


## STEP 6 SET UP

- To start, create a Stall Banner as a centrepiece for your display. The branding should clearly describe and “sell” your type of Future and its special merchandise. What is your collection of artefacts about? Use short, attention-grabbing text.
- Put extra material and your imagination to work in decorating the stall. Remember – this is an interdimensional multi-futures marketplace, so let your creativity run wild!
- A Bazaar is nothing without its merchants and customers, and you’ll alternate between these roles next, so gear up to be in character. What lines might you say to attract customers? Are there any materials you could use to craft costumes?

### MATERIALS

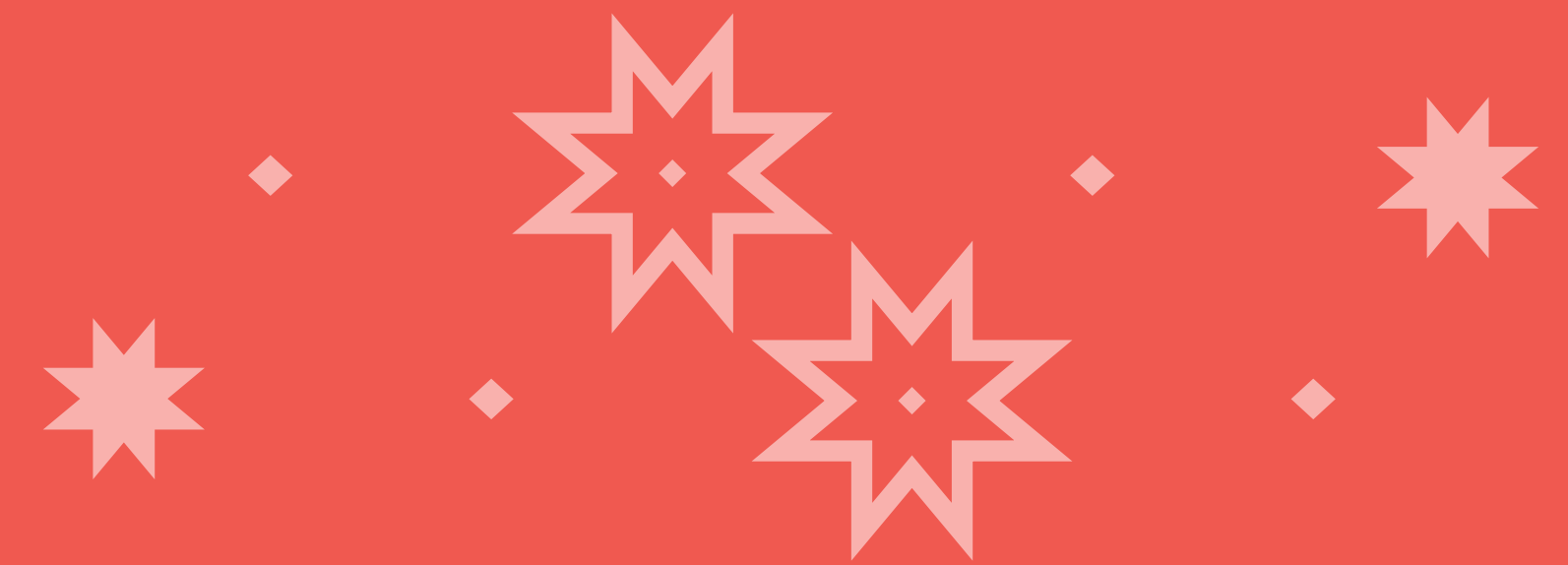
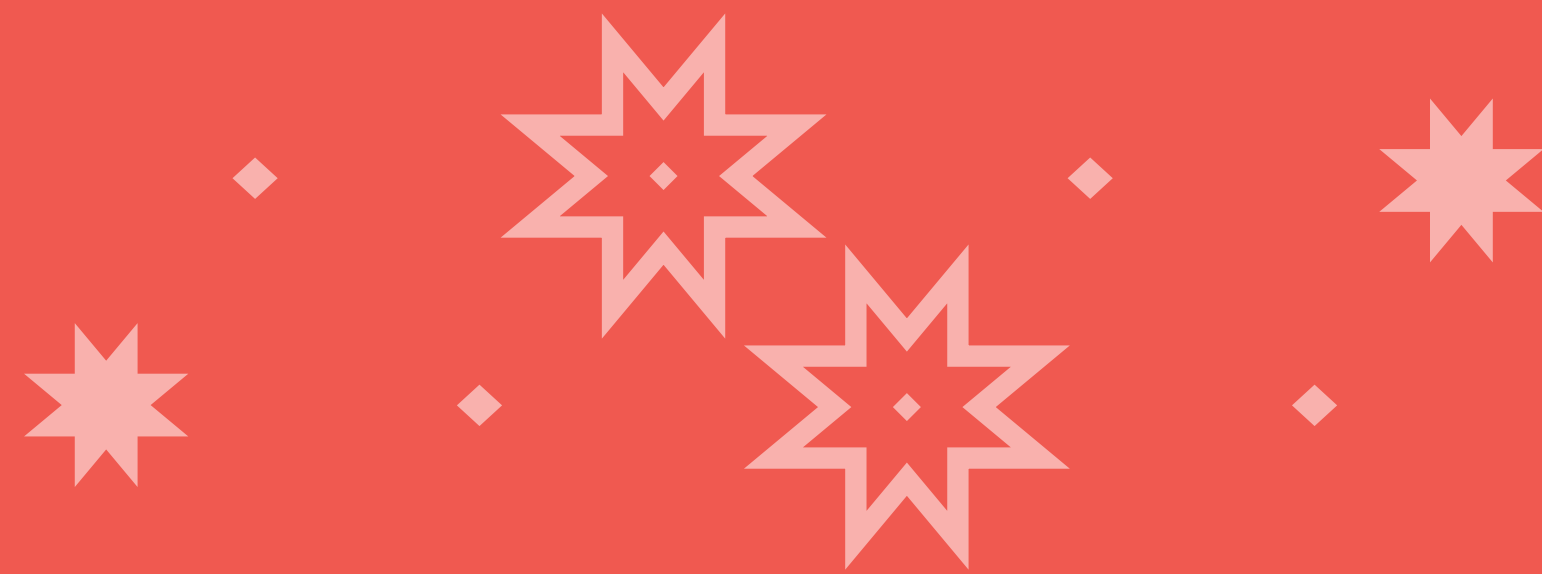




# STEP 7 RUN

## Objective

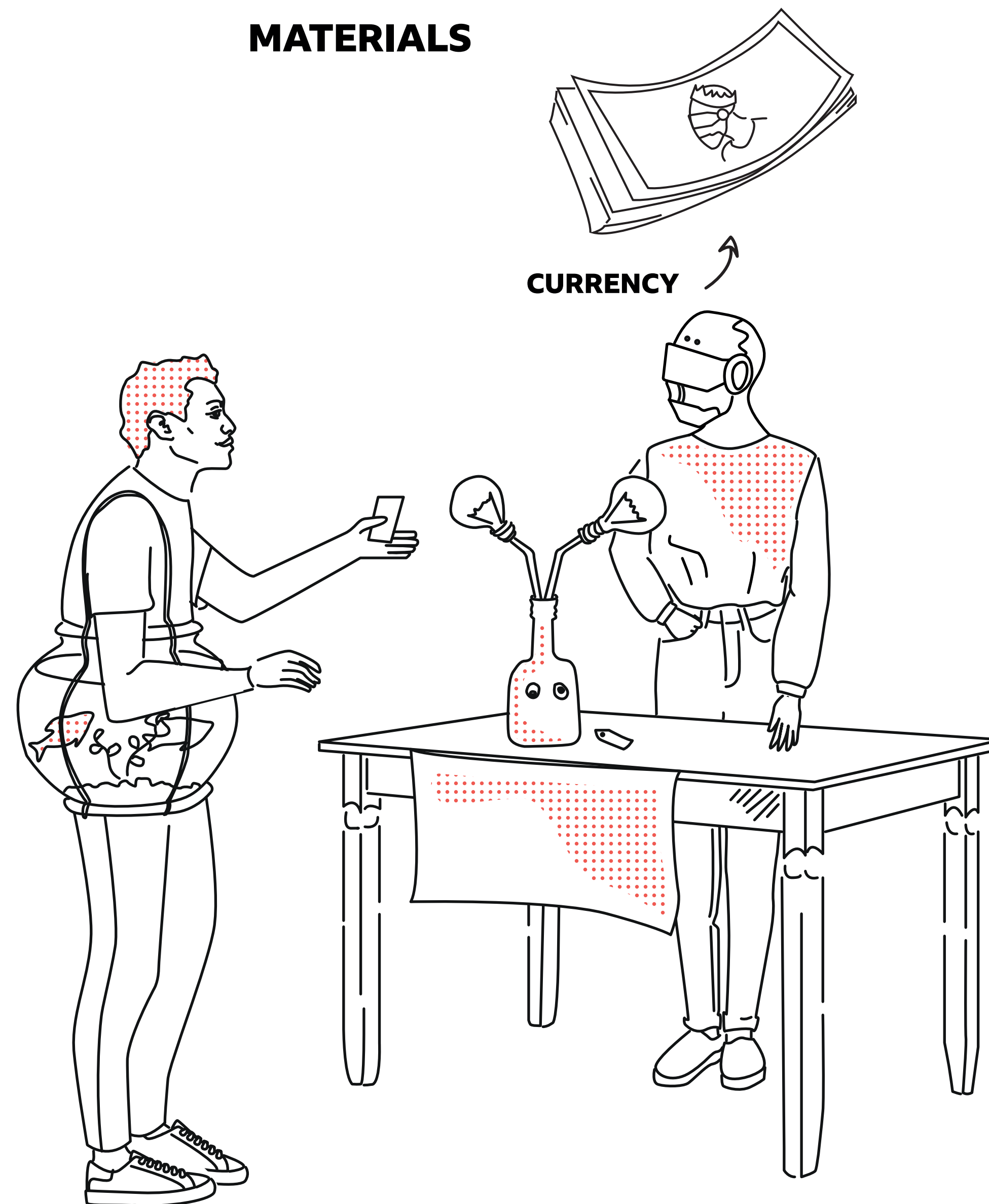
Experience your creative collection

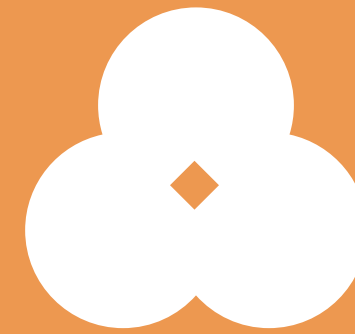


# **STEP 7** **RUN**

- When the Bazaar officially opens, at least one team member will be a “merchant” staffing the stall (two is best) while other team members roam as customers, currency in hand. Decide who’s doing what first. You’ll be asked to swap roles halfway, but make sure everyone gets a chance to play both sides.
- Merchants: Stay in character at all times and make every effort to “sell” your artefacts!
- Customers: Keep an eye out for artefacts that excite you, scare you, or make you laugh. Leave your currency by the most fun and thought-provoking artefact you can find, so that everyone can see which pieces tell the most compelling stories.
- Take pictures and videos to post on social media and share with the wider community using the #FuturesBazaar hashtag!

## **MATERIALS**





# STEP 8 TAKE DOWN

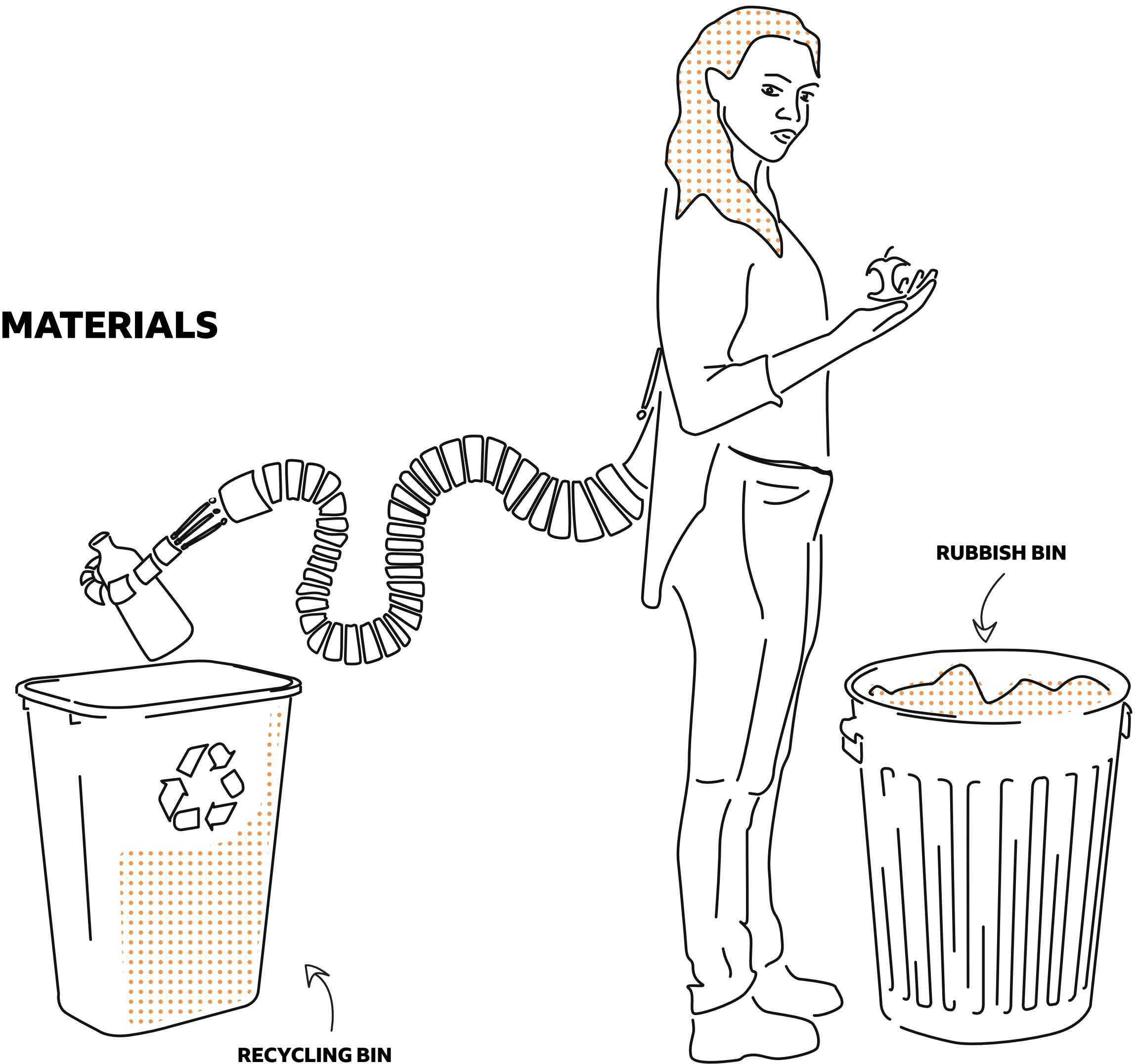
## Objective

Leave the space the way you found it

# **STEP 8** **TAKE DOWN**

- Right – we're done!
- Double check that stalls and artefacts have been well documented before clearing them away.
- If anyone wants to keep any of the artefacts for posterity, please feel free.
- Everything else should be cleaned up. Make sure to recycle all recyclable materials!

## **MATERIALS**





# THANK YOU

To learn more about this event  
and download the toolkit to run your own, visit  
[bbc.co.uk/gel/features/futures-bazaar-toolkit](https://bbc.co.uk/gel/features/futures-bazaar-toolkit)

***#FuturesBazaar***