

Asking Better Questions

- Most people find it difficult to ask someone else questions about something they are talking about.
- Most pupils wait to answer questions rather than ask their own.
- Yet **the more questions you can ask yourself** about something you read or hear, the more likely you will understand what it is about.
- When you ask a question, you attend more carefully and you make connections with things you already know.
- **The better your questions the better your thinking**, especially your critical thinking.

The seven basic question words:

How? eg. How does TV influence public opinion?

Why? eg. Why do people tell lies?

What? eg. What are the main causes of the disease?

Where? eg. Where can I find information?

When? eg. When is the best time to make a plan?

Which? eg. Which is the best choice to make?

Who? eg. Who can I trust?



Student worksheet

1. Write in 1 to 5 words along each line to make a sentence.

Flowers _____ seeds.
Flowers _____ leaves.
Flowers _____ thorns.
Flowers _____ colours.

Now ask WHY? or HOW? after each sentence to make some questions. See how you can make interesting questions about any thing! Maybe the teacher will blackboard 5 to 10 of the best questions from the group for the class to answer.

Answers:

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-
-

2. Repeat this again for whales.

Whales _____ mammals.
Whales _____ migrate.
Whales _____ fish.
Whales _____ noises.

Answers:

-
-
-

3. Repeat this for a few more topics that the group would like to make questions about. Write the topic at the start of the line. Write some important words about the topic at the end of the lines. Now to see how you can do this for making up questions about anything you read.

Student worksheet

4. Read this passage about the topic of INSECTS. Pick out **four** key words that are especially about insects. Now make up **four** sentences starting with the word *Insects* and ending with words you have chosen.

Insects

Insects are small, six legged animals. Flies, moths, and ants are just a few kinds of insects. Insects have two antennae on their heads that they use to detect smells. Their bodies have three segments or parts that contain holes that they breathe through. Insects have two sets of wings. Some insects are helpful to humans and some are harmful. Most insects lay hundreds of eggs.

Insects _____

Insects _____

Insects _____

Insects _____

Answer the best questions about insects from the group.