

						Question Matrix Template	
How	When	Why	Where	What	Who		Is
							Did
							Can
							Would
							Will
							Might

Inquiry Level – 1,2,3,4

Grade Level - all

The Scenario

Show students an object, event, or situation. Ask them to make observations (e.g. salt and tuning fork)

Open-Ended Inquiry Question

Use the question matrix on the reverse to generate as many questions as possible about a situation or scenario (e.g. Prompt : What are you wondering?)

Ask about details

-What do you notice? Zoom-in Zoom-out. Be descriptive

-What does it feel like? look like? smell like?

What could they be counting & measuring

-How many?

-How long?

How would they compare & contrast

-In what ways are these different / the same?

-Can you describe an order or pattern to _____?

Process Skill(s)

Observing, Questioning, Comparing, Contrasting

Instructions

This is a crucial and fundamental activity that can be used at all levels of inquiry. Highly recommended for any students in any discipline.

After students generate questions ask them to sort them (3 or more possible groups:)

Can their questions be answered by:

-Research: (e.g. How does the tuning fork make the salt jump?)

-Experiments: (e.g. What happens if I use a different tuning fork?)

-Innovation: (e.g. How might we make this better?)

Curriculum Connections

Depending on the situation this can lead to a multitude of writing tasks - procedural, persuasive, reports, summaries, conclusions etc.

This can also jump start any activity - research, experiment, innovation.

Generating Questions



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