



EduTrend Contents

P4C · ASKING PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS · PRIMARY

Wonder Questions

Turning a picture into lots of questions, from “what” to “why” and “what if”

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Wonder Questions

The facilitator shows a surprising picture, such as a cat sitting in a shopping basket or a snowman in the sunshine. Children ask as many questions as they can, starting with who, what, why, how and what if. The facilitator writes them on sticky notes. Children then choose a “wonder question”, one without an easy answer, and talk about it together.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- ask different kinds of questions;
- use question starters;
- choose a wonder question;
- take turns to speak.

KEY WORDS

question · who · why · what if ·
wonder · answer

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: asking questions. Science: curiosity. PSHE: speaking in a group.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- A surprising picture
- Sticky notes
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Show a surprising picture.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“Which questions have no easy answer?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Ask one question that nobody can answer quickly.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophy for children begins with children's own questions rather than the teacher's.

Question starters help young children move beyond "what is it?" to "why?" and "what if?".

Common ideas to listen for

- "Good questions have one right answer." Wonder questions may not.
- "Only adults ask big questions." Children ask them all the time.
- "Asking questions means you don't know." It is how we learn.

Adapting the activity

Support

Offer question-starter cards with pictures.

Stretch

Ask: what is the biggest question you can think of?

WORKSHEET 1

My questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write or draw.

My questions

Starter	My question
Who	
What	
Why	
What if	

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Why do people ask questions? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Asks a question	Uses a starter	Listens to others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Wonder Questions is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Asking Philosophical Questions programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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