



EduTrend Contents

P4C · SCIENCE AND WONDER · PRIMARY

The Wonder Box

Big wonder questions about the world

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

The Wonder Box

The facilitator opens a wonder box full of picture cards: the moon, a seed, a rainbow, a snail, a star and a raindrop. Children choose a card and say what they wonder about it. The class collects “I wonder” questions and sorts them into questions we could find out by looking and questions that are hard to answer. They vote on one to discuss.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- ask wonder questions;
- sort questions;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

wonder · why · question · find out · look · answer

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: asking questions. English: question words. Art: observational drawing.

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 box with picture cards
- 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	Open the wonder box and share the picture cards.	<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>"Why do we wonder?"</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)

Share one wonder question and say how we might answer it.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

The ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle both said that philosophy begins in wonder.

Sorting questions helps children see that some are answered by looking and testing, while others need thinking together.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Grown-ups know all the answers.” Many questions are still open.
- “Silly questions don’t matter.” Many discoveries start with simple questions.
- “Every question has one answer.” Some have many.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use three cards.

Stretch

Ask: what is the biggest question in the box?

WORKSHEET 1

I wonder...

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and write.

I wonder...

Picture	I wonder...

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.

Can every question be answered? 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	Gives a reason	Listens to others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The Wonder Box is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Science and Wonder 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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