



EduTrend Contents

P4C · KNOWLEDGE AND EPISTEMOLOGY · PRIMARY

How Do You Know?

A feely bag starts an enquiry into how we know things

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

How Do You Know?

Children take turns to feel an object in a bag without looking, then smell, listen and finally look. After each clue they say how sure they are. Then the facilitator asks how they know other things, such as that the sun is hot or that their friend is happy. Children create questions and vote on one, such as “How do you know something is true?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- name ways of finding out;
- say how sure they are;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

know · guess · sure · see · feel · true

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: the senses. English: speaking and listening. Maths: sorting.

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 feely bag with a safe object
- Sure and not sure 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

Use a safe, clean object with no sharp edges or allergy risks.

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	Play the feely bag game with one hidden object.	<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>“How do you know something is true?”</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)

Say one thing you know and how you know it.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

The study of knowledge is called epistemology, from the Greek word for knowledge.

Children already use several ways of knowing, such as the senses, being told and working things out.

Common ideas to listen for

- “If you can’t see it, you can’t know it.” We use other senses and reasons.
- “Guessing is the same as knowing.” Knowing needs good reasons.
- “Grown-ups always know.” Adults can be wrong too.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use two senses only.

Stretch

Ask: how do you know you are awake?

WORKSHEET 1

How sure am I?

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw or write.

How sure am I?

Clue	My guess	How sure?
Feel		
Smell		
Listen		
Look		

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 you know something you cannot see? 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	Names ways of knowing	Gives a reason	Listens to others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

How Do You Know? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Knowledge and Epistemology 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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