

Questioning for Understanding

It's a fact that, "once you have UNDERSTANDING" remembering is much easier.

What? Why? When? How? Where? Who?

The famous children's author Rudyard Kipling wrote:

I keep six honest serving men (they taught me all I knew);
Their names are WHAT and WHY and WHEN and HOW and
WHERE and WHO.

If you are in a lesson and are not asking questions (either verbally or mentally) then the chances are you will end up confused. You need answers to questions in order to complete your understanding of a topic.



What...Why...When...Who...How...Where...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

It's easy when you ASK

Teaching notes

I use this simple formula to encourage students to ask questions. I often hold up an object (e.g. a conch shell, a photograph, an unusual fruit or vegetable) and they go about asking.

As an alternative, I also have questioning dice. This involves students rolling the dice and then asking a relevant question.



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Curriculum elements

- SLc/E1.3 ask questions to obtain specific information
- SLc/E2.2 make requests and ask questions to obtain information in everyday contexts
- SLc/E3.4 Make requests and ask questions to obtain information in familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- SLc/L1.2 Make requests and ask questions to obtain information in familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- SLc/L2.2 Make requests and ask questions to obtain detailed information in familiar and unfamiliar contexts

Useful links

Question dice are available on Amazon UK (search for *question cube*).

A make-your-own question die is available at

<http://www.croydonsc.vic.edu.au/foundation2/Think/think1.htm>

(scroll down until you see *question dice* or go directly to the link below)

<http://www.croydonsc.vic.edu.au/foundation2/Think/Question%20Dice.doc>

The entire Kipling poem

http://www.kipling.org.uk/poems_serving.htm