

Question Starts

Brainstorm a list of at least 12 questions about the topic, concept or object. Use these question starts to help you think of interesting questions:

-Why... ?

-How would it be different if...?

-What are the reasons... ?

-Suppose that...?

-What if...?

-What if we knew...?

-What is the purpose of...?

-What would change if...?

Reflect: What new ideas do you have about the topic, concept or object that you didn't have before?

purpose

This routine helps learners develop good questions that provoke thinking and inquiry into a topic. It also helps learners brainstorm a variety of different kinds of questions.

Digging
Deeper into
Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine asks learners to develop good questions that provoke thinking and inquiry into a topic. The purpose of asking deep and interesting questions is to get at the complexity and depth of a topic.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- When introducing a new topic to help students get a sense of the breadth of a topic
- In the middle of a topic as a way of enlivening students' curiosity
- At the end of a topic or continuously throughout

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

- Are students able to brainstorm questions that get at the complexity and depth of a topic?
- Can students identify any new thinking that has emerged for them?
- Do students offer a variety of questions that show their depth of their thought processing?

LAUNCH

What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?

1. **Set up** → Examine what students *think* makes a good question.
2. **Topic** → Provide students with a topic
3. **Question Starts** → Use the question starts to generate a list of questions about the topic.
4. **Share the Thinking** → Share questions with a group or whole class. Document the questions being asked by the class as a record of thinking that can be referred back to.