

Name: _____

Inquiry-Based Questions - The ultimate aim is for you to pose your own powerful question shaped by background knowledge, curiosity, and wonder about the world.

Different Kinds of Wonders	
Heart Wonders	Research Wonders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - questions you can answer with your heart and mind - <i>What makes a best friend a best friend?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - questions that you can look up in books, magazines, on the computer, or by observing - <i>What goes on under an ant pile?</i>

This chart might be helpful for outlining the kinds of questions and their various purposes.

Kinds of Questions		
Factual Retrieval	Personal Preference	Critical Inquiry
Fact Questions	Imagine Questions	Interpretive questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have only one correct answer - provide an understanding of the details of a topic - good for 'mini-inquiries' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ask for some kind of opinion, belief or point of view- no wrong answers - good for leading discussions - rarely make for good inquiry-based projects because internally focused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have more than one answer but must be supported with evidence - effective for starting class discussions and for stimulating oral and written tasks - good for inquiry-based learning

Using key question words to construct questions helps to show you how questions move from simple 'yes/no' questions (less powerful) to 'why' and 'what if' questions (more powerful) that stimulate more reflective thinking and more creative responses.

Less Powerful Questions

More Powerful Questions



Yes/no Which Who When Where What How Why What If

Self and World Questions

Self	World
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Should I get another pet?</i>- <i>Where is the best place for a sun-destination vacation?</i>- <i>What services are available for my aging mother to keep her active, healthy, and social?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>How can I help my community become a more prosperous place?</i>- <i>What can I do about global warming?</i>- <i>Why should I care about the economic situation in Europe?</i>

Working in groups - Write several different inquiry questions using powerful key words below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
