



NATURAL SCIENCES - SENIOR PHASE - MWAZVITA CHIKOPO - 30-07-2021

To: SCIENCE TEACHERS

Topic: How can we encourage curiosity in our learners!

**Message Objective(s):**

To share some ways in which teachers can promote curiosity by the way they use questions in lessons.

**Message:**

**TEACHER LEAD QUESTIONS**

1. **Wait Time:** Give learners time to think after you pose a question to the group. Research has shown that even giving learners 3 to 5 seconds to process a question increases quality and quantity of responses dramatically.
2. **Spiral Questioning:** Lessons and questions need to be carefully structured to lead learners through a step-by-step process of discovery. Learners should first explore using basic cognitive skills- observation, description, identification, recall-and then spiral to eventually higher levels of cognition such as synthesis, application, and interpretation through class discussions.
3. **Inquiry Questioning:** Why do you think that? How do you know? Could you give me an example? What do you mean when you say . . .? What data/examples do you have to support your position? Tell me more about . . .? How might you validate or confirm . . .? Do you evidence to support what you are saying?
4. **“Add on” Responses:** Ask learners to “add on” to what another student has said. Often learner’s thinking is triggered by another person’s response to a question. It’s a good time to ask a more reluctant participant to give his or her input.

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