

Set the scene

Thinking about why asking questions is important. Get your pupils thinking about how asking questions can help them find out more information.

Ask pupils to think of all the question words they know and what different kinds of information they can find out through asking questions.

what

who

when

where

how

which

why

Show pupils some pictures of famous people they might know, for example; the Queen, the Prime Minister, a favourite author, a sports celebrity, a famous artist or person in history.

In pairs ask pupils to think about the following questions

- Who is this?
- What do they do?
- What would you like to ask them?

Then ask them to think about one person they would like to meet (this could be one of the people pictured or someone of their own choosing). Ask pupils to write three questions they would ask that person if they could meet them and share their ideas with the rest of the class.



Story time

Questions, questions, questions

This story can be used for guided reading or during circle time. An easy read version is available online.



Miss Bettany stood at the front of the class holding a scruffy well-loved teddy.

“Meet Barney,” she said, “He’s been my friend since I was a little girl and he’s here to help us with our new history topic”. The children giggled, it was funny seeing their teacher cuddling a teddy.

“We’re going to find out what it was like to grow up in the past. Over the weekend I’d like you to ask your mums, dads and grandparents lots of questions to find out what their childhood was like.”

Evie was excited, she loved finding out about how people lived in the past and she knew just the person to ask! She set to work straight away, busily writing down questions in her notebook.

What was your favourite TV programme?

What was your favourite subject at school?

Did you have a favourite toy?

On Saturday morning Evie grabbed her notebook and scooted to her Granny’s house.

“Granny, I’m learning about growing up in the past and would like to ask you some questions about when you were a little girl,” puffed Evie as her Granny opened the door.

“I’ll do my best to remember,” chuckled Granny as she ushered Evie into the sitting room. Evie took a deep breath and began, *“What was your favourite TV programme?”*

“I didn’t have a favourite TV programme,” replied Granny.

“Oh? Why not?” puzzled Evie.

“Because we didn’t have a TV,” smiled Granny. Evie’s eyes widened. “But I do remember the time when I watched the first man on the moon,” Granny continued, “The Harpers at number 57 had a new black and white TV. I remember nearly everyone who lived on our street crowding into their living room to watch. It was so exciting.”

“That sounds amazing,” said Evie

“It was,” said Granny, “In fact it changed my life.”

“What do you mean?” asked Evie.

“Well it was at that moment that I decided I wanted to be a scientist,” smiled Granny.

Evie looked thoughtful. “What’s the matter dear?” asked her Granny.

“Oh, I think you may have just answered my next question! I was going to ask what your favourite subject at school was, but I think it must have been science!”

“You’re quite right,” chuckled Granny.

Evie put a tick next to the first two questions and wrote down some notes.

“Do you have any more questions?”

“Let’s see,” said Evie, “I’ve asked two, which means I’ve only got 28 left to ask!”

Questions

- What did Evie learn about her Granny?
- Why was it useful for Evie to ask her Granny questions?
- What questions would you ask Evie’s granny to find out about her childhood?
- Can you think of an example of when asking questions might be important?
- Imagine a time when you didn’t understand something at school. What might happen if you didn’t ask a question?



What?

Why?

How?



About Parliament

Finding out why questions are important at Parliament

Use the information and the image bank to introduce your pupils to why MPs and Lords ask so many questions!

What question would you ask your MP?

Every day in Parliament people ask questions. It's an important part of the job for MPs and Lords.

In fact, asking questions is so important that time is set aside at the beginning of the day in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, just for asking questions.

Asking questions can help MPs and Lords to find out more information about new ideas for laws.

MPs ask questions to help them learn about different people's experiences. They also talk to lots of different people to make sure they have heard lots of different ideas and opinions. All these questions help them to make sure they have all the information they need to make the best decisions for everyone.

Sometimes questions can challenge the way we do things. In Parliament, MPs and Lords bring their experience and expertise to question and challenge how the UK is run. Using questions to challenge is one way we can change and improve things.

All through history people have asked questions and challenged the way things are done.



Take it further

- Find out about significant individuals in history who have questioned and challenged how things work.
- Find out about Emily Wilding Davison, a suffragette who questioned why women were not allowed to vote.
- Invite your local MP to visit your class. Prepare interview questions to ask them about their job.



What would you ask your MP?



At the start of each day, MPs have 'Question time'.



The Lords use their experience from their jobs to ask questions.



In the House of Commons, the Speaker decides who will ask the next question.