

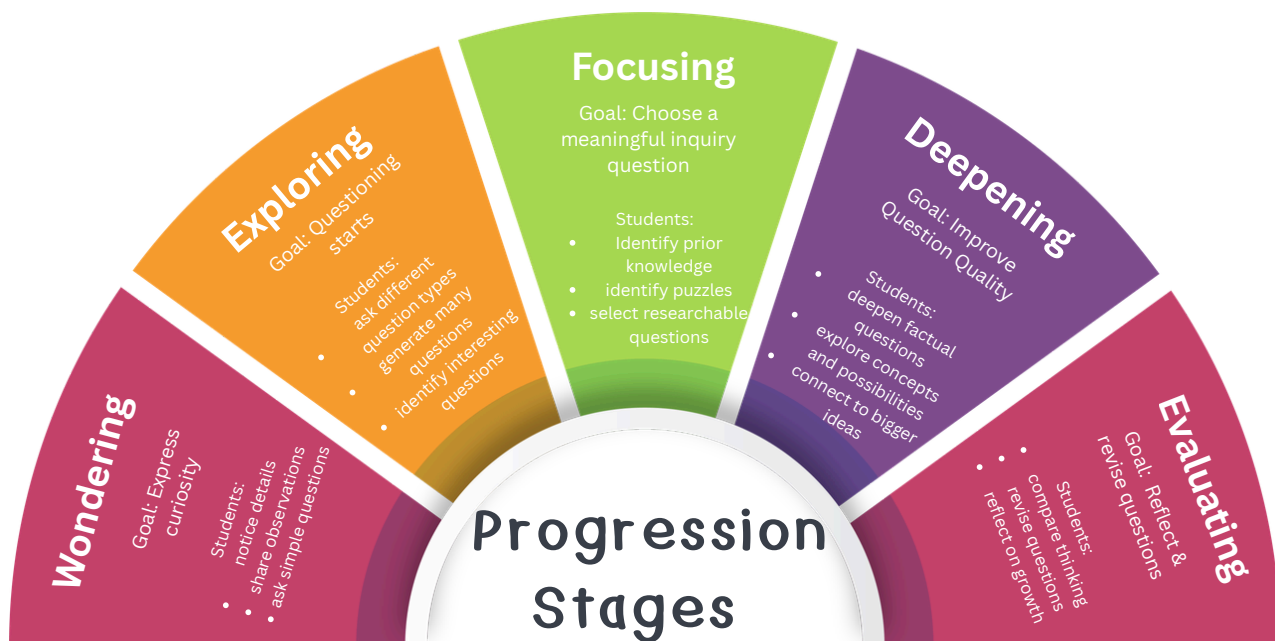
Questioning Inquiry Progression (K–5)

ATL Skill: Thinking & Research
Learner Profile: Inquirer | Thinker | Knowledgeable

Purpose

This resource supports learners in strengthening questioning skills across inquiry.

Use these activities to help students move from:
curiosity → exploration → focus → deepening → reflection



Teacher Tips

- This resource includes 5 student worksheets aligned to a questioning progression, 1 worksheet for each stage of inquiry growth, reflection prompts, transferable generalizations
- Use worksheets during inquiry lessons/ after provocations/during research/ during reflection
- Teachers may use/ one worksheet across one lesson/ one worksheet across multiple lessons/ multiple worksheets across a unit
- Use as portfolio evidence, formative assessment, conferencing tool
- This resource works best when questioning is modelled aloud, routines are revisited regularly, students revisit earlier questions

Questioning Inquiry Progression (K–5)

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These are not grade levels

The progression stages are not age-based benchmarks.

Students may demonstrate different stages depending on:

- familiarity with inquiry
- concept complexity
- prior knowledge
- teacher support

Learners move flexibly between stages.

Questioning is recursive

Students do not progress once and finish.

They repeatedly move through: curiosity - exploration - refinement - revision across units and contexts.

Growth is recursive, not linear.

Teacher role matters

Questioning improves when teachers:

- model curiosity
- validate student questions
- prompt deeper thinking
- make thinking visible

Questioning improves when teachers:

- Avoid:
- answering too quickly
- only valuing correct answers
- over-scaffolding every question

Evidence to Look for

Look beyond quantity of questions.

Notice whether students can:

- ask independently
- vary question types
- justify questions
- deepen questions
- revise questions after learning

Reflection Matters

Encourage students to revisit:

- What did I ask before?
- What do I ask now?
- How has my thinking changed?

Question refinement is evidence of learning growth.

NOTICE – THINK – WONDER

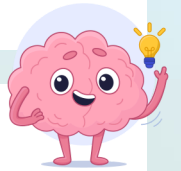
Teacher Purpose: Use during provocation / tuning in to express curiosity

Look closely at the Picture/ object /text

What Do You See / Notice?



What Do You Think is happening?



What Do You Wonder? Can you ask
WHY question ?



BIG UNDERSTANDING

CURIOSITY HELPS US BEGIN LEARNING.

IBPYP Learning Progression | Questioning | P1

Reflect on big understanding,

When I ask a question, I can.....

My Reflection:

Circle:

- 😊 I asked many questions
- 😐 I asked some questions
- 😞 I need help asking questions

My best question:

QUESTION SORT

Teacher Purpose: Help learners generate multiple question types.

Ask 6 different types of questions about your topic

WHAT	WHY	WHERE
HOW	WHEN	COULD

SORT YOUR QUESTIONS

EASY TO FIND	NEEDS INVESTIGATION

MY FAVOURITE QUESTION

The question I most like to explore...

Because....

Big conceptual Understanding
DIFFERENT QUESTIONS LEAD TO DIFFERENT KINDS OF UNDERSTANDING.

IB PYP Learning Progression | Questioning | P2

A strong question helps me

Reflection

I can:

- Ask many questions
- Ask different kinds of questions
- Choose an interesting question

Question Funnel

Teacher Purpose: Support choosing a researchable inquiry question.

MyTopic: _____

My possible questions



Check your Best Question

My best Question is :

Checklist:

- I can research it
- It connects to my unit
- It helps deeper learning

I chose this because:

Big Conceptual Understanding
**Strong questions guide
meaningful inquiry.**

IB PYP Learning Progression | Questioning | IP3

A good question helps us ...

Reflection

Rate yourself:

★ I chose carefully

★★ I explained my choice

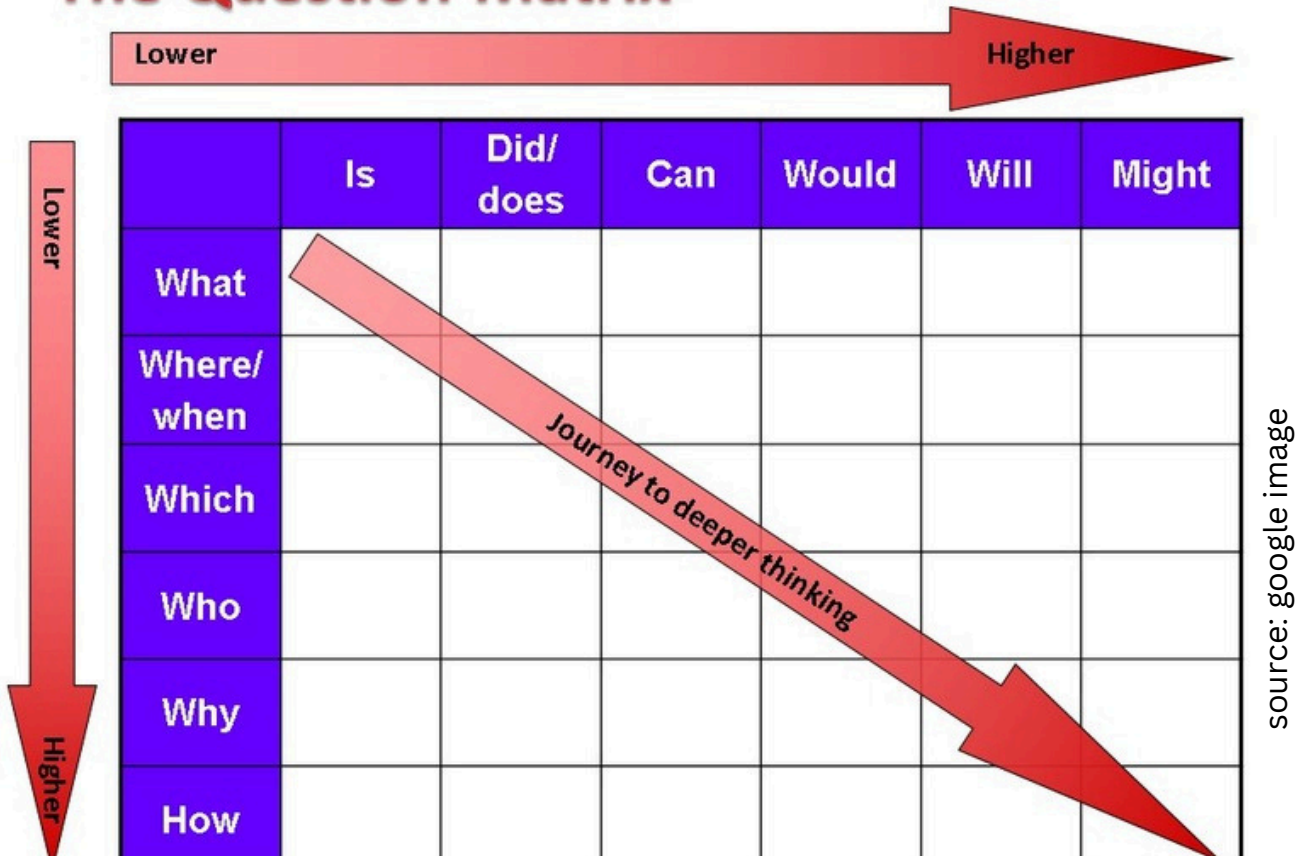
★★★ I chose a meaningful question

Question Matrix

Teacher Purpose: Push factual thinking into conceptual thinking.

My Topic: _____

The Question Matrix



Level 1 question (factual/ simple)	Level 2 question (Thinking / deeper)	Level 3 Questions (conceptual/ transfer)

My best deep Question

Choose Your strongest question:

Why is this deeper?

- It cannot be answered quickly
- It makes me think
- It connects to bigger ideas
- It has more than one perspective

Connection to Key Concepts

My question connects to:

- Change
- Causation
- Connection
- Perspective
- Responsibility
- Function
- Form

Because:

Big Conceptual Understanding

**Powerful questions move beyond facts
to explore ideas, possibilities, and
perspectives.**

IB PYP Learning Progression | Questioning | P4

Complete:

Deep questions help me understand

Reflection

Today I moved from:

- What? → Why?
- Why? → How?
- How? → What if?

My deepest question was:

Questions: Then vs Now!

I used think



Now I think

Then vs Now!

My question
before



— My question —
now

Why did my
question change?

Big Conceptual Understanding

**Changing questions shows growing
understanding.**

Reflection

I improved because

Questioning

IB PYP Learning progression

ATL : Thinking & Research

LP : Inquirer · Thinker ·
Open-minded

Deepening

Frames concept-based questions (How? Why? What if?) to drive inquiry.

""How does the CONNECTION between soil, rain and distance affect farmers?""

""My first question was too simple. Now I'd ask: Under what CONDITIONS does erosion become a crisis?""

Evaluating

Returns to original questions. Refines and critiques them with new knowledge.

Focusing

Selects a researchable question and justifies the choice

Exploring

Generates multiple questions. Begins to prioritise without being asked.

""I have three questions – which one should I investigate?""

""My best question is: How far does soil travel? Because I can test it.""

Wondering

Reacts to a provocation with a spontaneous descriptive question

""Why is the water brown after it rains?""

