

INQUIRY BASED PROJECTS

Question Centered Learning

What is an INQUIRY BASED PROJECT?

- Inquiry based projects begin with a great guiding question.
- Rather than focusing on sharing facts about a topic, inquiry-based learning engages critical thinking skills by deeply examining a topic and exploring the supporting details around the possible answers around the guiding question.

What is the difference between inquiry-based projects and passion projects?

Passion projects are centered around a topic. Inquiry projects are centered around a question. *Inquiry based projects tend to engage a deeper level of thinking.*

Who can do this type of project?

If your child asks questions, then this is the perfect project. Students from kindergarten through grade 12, of all abilities, are motivated and able to be successful with these types of projects. Printing, drawings, and output are all based on ability. Everyone can find a great way to show what they know.

What skills is my child learning?

Your child will be reading, writing, creating, researching, being artistic, and using deep critical thinking skills.

What types of topics can we choose from?

TOPIC IDEAS: How can we help the butterflies? How can we get plastics out of the ocean? How can we help the problem of homelessness? Why does a dentist do? How do our salmon affect the other ocean creatures in our area? Any question can be explored. Why do volcanoes erupt and what effect does it have on the environment?

How can my child show his / her learning?

Students can show what they know in many different formats:

- **Create posters**
- **Create booklets (digital or paper)**
- **Create a website**
- **Create a presentation (PowerPoint or other)**
- **Share!**

HOW TO DO AN INQUIRY BASED PASSION PROJECT:

STEP ONE: Identify the area of interest

STEP TWO: Generate a great question to guide the project. This should provoke higher level thinking.

STEP THREE: Explore books and websites around that area of interest.

STEP FOUR: Begin with an overview of the topic to provide background information.

Then begin exploring the complexities of the guiding question. Record the information what has been learned about the question. Use images and words to share the learning.

STEP FIVE: During the learning process, **revisit the initial inquiry question.** It may continue to evolve. By the end, **summarize** what you have learned and **connect it to the initial question.**

STEP SIX: Once completed, **share with pride!**

INQUIRY BASED PASSION PROJECT Example:

MY INTEREST: The creek near my house

My INQUIRY QUESTION:

How does my neighborhood impact the creek near my house?

LEARN:

- What is a healthy creek ecosystem? Who lives in the creek? Who relies on the creek?
- How does construction impact a healthy creek ecosystem?
- How does pollution impact a healthy creek ecosystem?
- What can we do to keep our creek healthy?
- How can I make a difference?

CREATE: Using pictures and words, create a poster, PowerPoint or booklet that outlines each of the questions and the answers.

ANSWER THE INITIAL INQUIRY QUESTION: At the end of the project, be sure to revisit the initial inquiry question. Provide a summary answer based on the information collected.

SHARE: Share my project with others and teach them all about my topic.

SAMPLE DIFFERENT FINISHED PROJECT: How can I get my teeth as white as eggs?



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