



## Snapshots

Time required  
(mins)



Key Stage 2

### Learning outcomes

- ✓ I can understand the difference between open and closed questions
- ✓ I can formulate meaningful and interesting questions
- ✓ I can collaborate with others on a creative task

### Preparation time

None

### Resources needed

- A selection of random objects, or no resources if using the Alternative set-up

# Good Questions

This short but lively warm-up is a useful prelude to any lesson requiring pupils to ask deep questions or pursue lines of enquiry.

### What happens

1. In groups of 5 or less, explain to pupils that you're going to play a game about asking good questions. Ask them what they think makes a good question, then explain:
  - *A definition of a good question is one that generates the most interesting or detailed answer, or a question that leads to other questions*
  - *A good question is often an open question, i.e. a question that does not generate either a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Give some examples.*
2. The game is that you have in your hand/in a bag/desk drawer, etc., a random object. Each group will be allowed to ask two questions to determine what the object is; after the second question, the group can guess.
  - *Alternative set-up: choose an object in the room. This creates a spatial dimension to the activity, wherein pupils can ask questions to locate it.*
3. If the guess is correct, that group gets to come up and choose another object and the game continues with other groups asking questions of the chosen group.
4. If the guess is incorrect, the questions/guessing moves to the next group.
5. Essential rules:
  - *If a group simply makes a guess and is wrong, the turn automatically passed to the next group. This helps encourage pupils to ask first, guess second.*
  - *The one question that cannot be asked is, 'What's the object?' or 'What is it?' They're good questions but they spoil the game!*
6. For each object, the turn is passed around until the object is correctly guessed or until each group has two goes.

### Reflection questions

- *What did you notice about how your group worked together? How might your group have worked together more effectively?*
- *Did you find this activity easy or difficult?*
- *What did you learn/notice about your classmates/friends that you didn't know before?*

## This activity works well with

- Circle Time (Snapshots)
- Manifesto! (Selfies)



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