

HomeTalk

Thoughtful Conversations for Families
and Schools

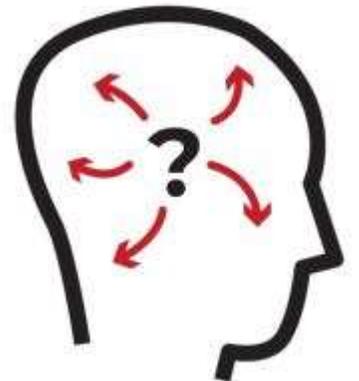
Issue 28 - Curiosity



Note to parents/carers and teachers

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children

Thinking
Moves



This week's focus is curiosity

“When you're curious you find lots of interesting things to do.”



Walt Disney – animation entrepreneur

“Be curious. Read widely. Try new things. What people call intelligence just boils down to curiosity.”

Aaron Swartz – computer entrepreneur



“It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of the marvellous structure of reality every day. Never lose a holy curiosity. .”

Albert Einstein - physicist



Caring thinking

- Does asking a question about something show that you care about it in some way?

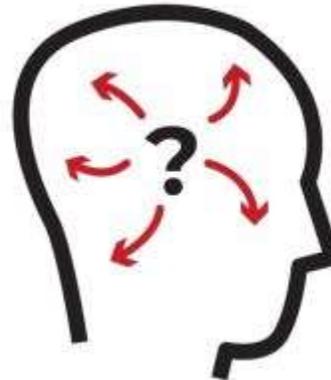


Collaborative thinking

- What is meant by the saying, '*a problem shared is a problem halved*'?

Creative thinking

- Is every creative act a response to some question or other?



Thinking Moves

Critical thinking

- Is critical thinking just being curious to know the best thing to believe?



Think AHEAD

What things in the future are you most curious about?



Think BACK

What things in the past are you most curious about?



CONNECT

How might curiosity be linked with success or with happiness?



DIVIDE

Is there a difference between being curious and being nosy?



LISTEN/LOOK

Can you give examples of animals using their senses to explore the world?



ZOOM (in/out)

ZOOM in on an everyday object and make a question

ZOOM out and ask a question about the stars

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 3 – 5 years



https://youtu.be/ryG9Oo0_Q7s

Cat meets robot

See how curiosity turns (eventually) to co-habitation.

Talking Points

- Have you noticed how cats are interested in things that move, and like sniffing them? Why do they do it?
- What did the cat find out about the robot?
- Would the cat ever have made friends with the robot, if it had run away from it in the first place?
- How do your family keep you safe when you explore?

Activity

- Find 10 things in the fridge or larder that might smell different, and ask if you can sniff them.
- Use all your senses to get to know an object better.
- Pretend to be a cat, and make up a story of what happens when someone new visits them.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 6 – 9 years

Building Curiosity



https://youtu.be/_tPaFaPCHo

Building Curiosity – While someone is filmed building the Lego Curiosity Rover (robot on Mars), a story builds of the power of curiosity and science to change the world – inspiring, and challenging.

Talking Points

- Why might curiosity have enabled humans to survive in the world before they learned to build houses?
- Is it really possible to be curious about everything?
- How many discoveries do you make in a day?
- Are you good at explaining how things work?
- How would you feel about going into space to explore?

Activity

- Draw or make a Curiosity Rover – and then write a bit about what it was designed to do.
- Draw or make (e.g. with Lego) a machine that can transform from a submarine to an aeroplane – and then write a story about a journey of exploration with it.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 6 – 9 years



https://youtu.be/-_Tu9jylBhQ

The Source of Curiosity – An introduction to neurons and neuroscience – how our brains work. Possibly a ‘turn off’ for some, but also a ‘turn on’ for others. Some explanations will be needed.

Talking Points

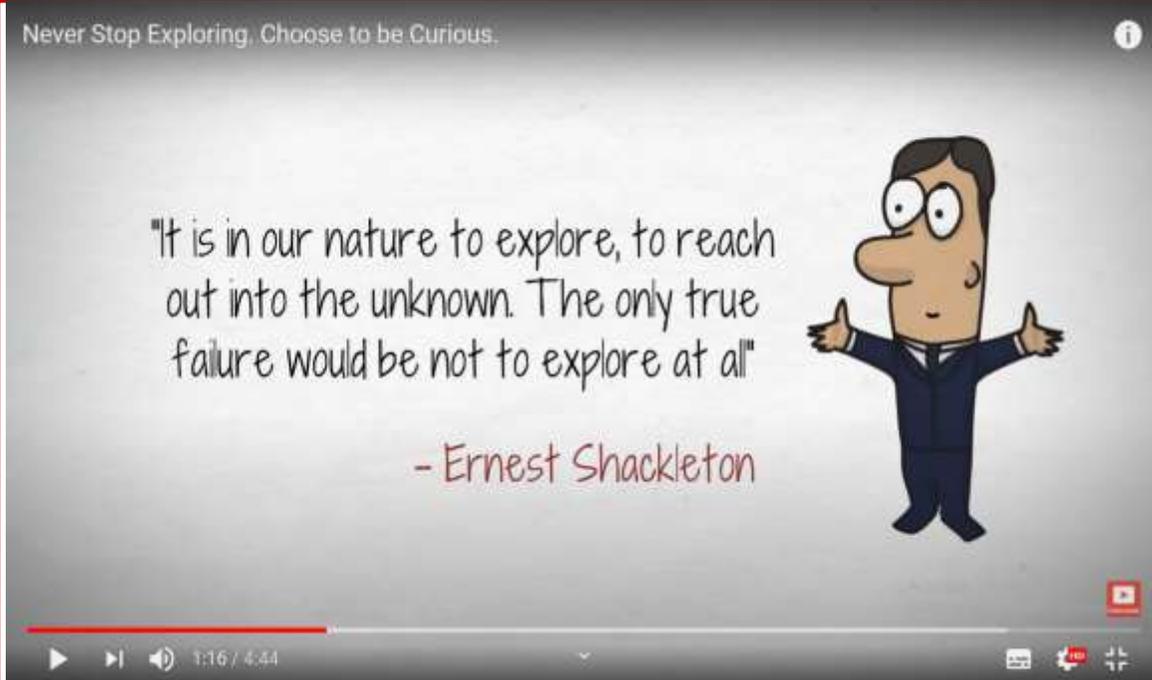
- Did you know that your brain used electricity to work? What else did you learn from the film?
- If neurons are the source of curiosity (wanting to know) could they also be what enable us to know things?
- Do you think that scientists studying the brain might discover simple ways of making people happier?
- Are you more interested in brains or in trains?

Activity

- Find out how eyes and ears send signals to the brain so that we can see and hear ‘the outside world’.
- Computers can be made to give answers to many things you might be curious about (i.e. want to know). Discuss with a friend whether they might one day want to know things for themselves.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For age 10+ years



<https://youtu.be/L1nRamPEuns>

Never stop exploring. Choose to be curious - an animation that presents an argument for developing one's curiosity.

Talking Points

- How do you think the story of the discovery of Canada was lost and then found? Can we be sure it is true?
- Is it possible that a lot of what people imagine as history is not quite true?
- Do you agree with what Shackleton said about failure?
- Is there any point in curiosity if it is not accompanied by determination?

Activity

- Find out about the Greek stories of Icarus and of Pandora's box. Then find someone to tell them to, and see if they agree that we should not explore everything.
- Try to find a few other examples of discoveries in history or science that were made 'by mistake'.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For age 10+ years

The Preciousness of Time: A Stephen Hawking Tribute



<https://youtu.be/A6HhDFskbXs>

The preciousness of time – Stephen Hawking talking about his life and motivations. A powerful film.

Talking Points

- Do you use your precious time well?
- What is it to be *'lost in your own thoughts'*?
- What does Hawking mean by *'the grand design of the universe'*?
- Do you agree that humans will need to leave for another planet?
- Do you see all of life as an adventure into the future?

Activity

- Find out more about Stephen Hawking – particularly why he was given only a few years to live. (You might try to watch the film: *'The Theory of Everything'*.)
- Discuss with friends and family what you might all do to 'make the future a better place'.

More ideas.....

<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/HomeTalk/>



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#P4C and #thinkingmoves



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