

# ASK BETTER QUESTIONS

Asking creative questions, not just solving predefined problems, helps students think critically and take ownership of learning. Here's how to get started:

## RETHINK THE PROBLEM

**Don't** give students a fixed problem, give them an open-ended question to encourage creative thinking. For example:

**Instead of:** "Write a story about a dog."

→ **Ask:** "What could a dog teach us about solving problems?"

**Instead of:** "Solve this math equation."

→ **Ask:** "What is another way to solve this problem?"

**Instead of:** "Describe the main character in this story."

→ **Ask:** "How would the story change if the main character made a different choice?"

**Instead of:** "Research a historical figure."

→ **Ask:** "How might this person handle a modern-day challenge?"

## APPLY ACROSS SUBJECTS

### MATH:

- \* What patterns might we discover if we changed the rules?
- \* How could we represent this problem visually?

### SCIENCE:

- \* What would happen if we mixed these elements in a new way?
- \* What is another way to test this experiment?

### ELA:

- \* How could this story end differently if the main character made a different choice?
- \* What if this character lived in a different era?

### SOCIAL STUDIES:

- \* What solutions could a community try if resources were limited?
- \* How would this event unfold in today's world?

## QUESTION STARTERS

Encourage curiosity with these prompts:

- \* **What if...?** (Explore possibilities beyond the obvious)
- \* **How might we...?** (Frame problems as opportunities)
- \* **What's another way to...?** (Encourage alternative solutions)
- \* **What's stopping us from...?** (Identify barriers and think critically)
- \* **How could we...?** (Encourage practical, solution-focused thinking)
- \* **Who might benefit if...?** (Build empathy and connects problem-solving to real-world impact)
- \* **What patterns do we notice...?** (Promote analytical thinking and observation skills)
- \* **What would happen if...?** (Encourage experimentation and prediction)
- \* **In what ways could we...?** (Broaden perspective, generate multiple ideas)
- \* **How is this similar to...?** (Make connections across topics)
- \* **What surprises us about...?** (Train curiosity and attention to detail)
- \* **What else could this mean...?** (Challenge assumptions)

## MAKE IT A HABIT

**Start each lesson** with a creative question of the day.

Encourage students to **generate their own questions** before offering solutions.

**Reflect:** Which questions led to the most innovative ideas?



The best questions often don't have a single "right" answer. Embrace ambiguity... it's where creativity thrives.