



I'm Sea Curious! Are you Sea Curious?

Encourage your child or students to be Sea Curious too!

Kids are naturally curious, and you can encourage that Sea Curiosity by promoting inquiry.

What is inquiry?

Inquiry is the act of asking questions to learn more about a topic. Often inquiry arises from an experience, observation, or general curiosity. Educators and caregivers can encourage kids' natural curiosity by acknowledging questions and empowering kids to find the answers.



Inquiry can happen in different locations: in the classroom, in an informal learning environment such as a museum or the playground, while on the bus, or at home.



Inquiry can occur at any age.



Inquiry can happen in many ways.

Young learners may not use questions to express their curiosity.

How can I encourage inquiry?



Don't give kids the answers to their questions. Help them to make predictions and observations, and suggest places to find information.



Model asking questions. Walk through methods for investigating and problem-solving with your child or students.



When teaching or experiencing something new, ask your child what they wonder. Sometimes children, especially younger ones, may not know how to phrase their thoughts in the form of a question.



Show that you're a learner too. Don't be afraid to let your children know that you don't know everything. Research and reputable sources are important for finding answers to questions.



Give positive feedback when kids ask questions.



Consider starting an "I'm Curious" box.

When your child or students have a question, put it in the box. Whenever you have a few spare minutes, pull a question from the box and help them make predictions, investigate answers and search for information.

Ready... set... inquire!

Make space for inquiry. On a field trip, use time during lunch or the ride home to ask your child or students to name an animal or exhibit that they saw. What do they wonder about it? You and other trip leaders can also write down three questions your child or students ask on the trip. By encouraging questioning, you spark curiosity and inquiry within your students or child.



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Get Sea Curious!

sheddaquarium.org/seacurious

As you watch the Sea Curious videos with your child or students, talk about how the children in the video posed a question and how they discovered the answer.

Did they observe animals?

Did they ask experts?

Did they try an activity?

Ask kids what they learned about animals in the episode and what new questions they have.



Share your child or students' questions about animals with [@Shedd_Aquarium](https://twitter.com/Shedd_Aquarium) and [@SheddLearning](https://twitter.com/SheddLearning) on Twitter using [#SeaCurious](https://twitter.com/SeaCurious).



Children can further investigate what they are Sea Curious about by **reading books, conducting a research project,** or **searching trusted websites with a grown-up.**



Our Shedd Aquarium Pinterest boards may have resources on the animals students are looking for.
pinterest.com/sheddaquarium/boards

We would love for you to share how kids discovered the answers to their questions with [#SeaCurious](https://twitter.com/SeaCurious) too!