Lead with a Question

PLC Activity

A productive investigation question addresses the learning goal, is short and straightforward, and leads to where an answer may be found.

Each question below frames a lesson or investigation from the Inquiry Project Grade 5 unit, *Investigating Water Transformations*. In his essay *The Right Question at the Right Time*, Elstgeest says, "the right question leads to where an answer may be found."

In your PLC group discussion, analyze some of the questions below. In what ways do you think the question is:

a. focused on an idea about of transformations of matter, e.g., water

b. worded in a way that is short and simple

c. suggests what student activity will lead them to an answer? Some suggestions are provided in the side box.

Classroom activities that lead to answers

- ☐ explore and observe
- ☐ measure or count
- ☐ compare and contrast
- ☐ find out what happens if …
- ☐ solve a problem
- ☐ take a position and provide evidence
- ☐ explain and provide evidence
- ☐ use or construct a model

Some investigation questions from the Inquiry Project Grade 5 unit, *Investigating Water Transformations*.

Why are these ships in a field?

How can we keep track of our mini-lake materials?

How does water compare with sand?

What does a drop of water weigh?

What changes and what stays the same when salt dissolves in water?

What happens to the water?

What happened to the water?

What is happening in the 2-bottle system?

Why do the water drops form?

How are ice and water the same and different?

What happens to weight and volume when water freezes?

What changes and what stays the same when ice melts?