

# Fostering real-world learning through inquiry in the young learner classroom

## Webinar handout

by Michelle Worgan

### How to plan and set up an inquiry

In the session, we explored an example inquiry on the topic of minibeasts. This is a fascinating topic for many children and one you can easily use to try out an inquiry-based project. Below you will find a sample inquiry plan which you could use to help you plan a sequence of lessons.

#### A sample 6-lesson inquiry plan for the topic: Minibeasts

Lesson	Stage	Instructions	Possible materials
<b>1 Getting started</b>	Wonder	Allow students to explore the materials in groups. Monitor and note any language they use or need.	Toy insects, books, photos of minibeasts, play dough
	Essential question	Display the essential question and elicit initial ideas.	A poster / flip chart / digital board
	Reflect	Have students write or draw their answer to <i>What do I know?</i>	KWL chart
<b>2 Making a plan</b>	Questions	Give students sub questions and have them choose the ones they would like to explore or write their own questions about the topic.	A list of sub questions (on paper or displayed)
	Plan	Plan together what students will do and how. Where will they find	

		information? What kind of resources will you need?	
	Reflect	<i>What do I want to know? How can I find out?</i>	KWL chart
<b>3 Finding out</b>	Research	Choose activities to help students explore the topic (see possible activities in the video). Make sure students document their learning in an age appropriate way.	Books, video clips, devices with internet, graphic organisers e.g. bar chart, checklist
	Reflect	<i>What do I know now? What do I still need to know?</i>	KWL chart
<b>4 Learning more</b>	Research	Choose more activities depending on what students have already learned and what they are interested in.	See list in Stage 3 above
	Evidence	Have learners collate their information in groups. Together, they decide which information helps them answer the essential question.	
<b>5 Putting it together</b>	Create	Have students choose what to make to present what they have learned. Students design audiovisual materials.	Stationery and classroom materials, Digital devices for recording
<b>6 Sharing</b>	Present	Give students time to plan and rehearse. Groups present their work to the class.	Students' materials from Stage 5.
	Reflect	<i>What did I learn? How do I feel about my learning? What can I do better next time?</i>	Graphic organiser

This is just a basic outline of a possible way in which you could structure an inquiry across several lessons. However, remember that you can adapt it according to your students' needs and interests. Read more on my blog: <https://michelleworgan.com/inquiry-based-learning-in-summer-schools/>

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A recording of Michelle's webinar for World Teachers' Day 2023 can be watched here: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-events/world-teachers-day-2023/world-teachers-day-2023-thursday-5-october>

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