

Inquiry Mini-Lessons

Choosing Resources to Assist with Inquiry

This lesson focuses on choosing resources for research. The ability to identify and select appropriate resources will help students with their specific inquiry.

Note: You may need to limit the number of resources students select so they are focused and not overloaded with too many choices.

Time: 15 minutes

Materials:

- a collection of different types of texts, including books, magazines, Websites, pictures, audio clips, DVDs (The specific texts will depend on the type of inquiry and the needs of your students. It might be wise to begin with a few to illustrate the point of the lesson.)
- enlarged version of the **Resources Selection Chart**
- individual copies of the Resources Selection Chart

Grouping: whole class

Procedure:

1. Remind students that once an inquiry question is selected, it is important to find ways to deeply investigate the question.
2. Share an inquiry question with the class. For example, if you're completing the *Animals in Our Lives* unit, you might choose to explore the question, "I wonder what similarities cats and dogs have as pets?"
3. Display the Resources Selection Chart and, using a Compare/Contrast strategy, model how you might select certain resources.
 - book or interview
 - magazine or picture
 - audio clip or Website

We will look at some of these resources and try to figure out how to find the kind of resources that will best help us find out more information about our inquiry question.

Which resource would work better for my inquiry question?

Can I interview an animal? How about a person? Would an interview be a good choice?

Does a picture help, or do I need more information?

Which would give me more information about my question?

4. Record your selections on the chart.

I'm going to select books, magazines, and Websites to research my question. What do you think might happen if I tried to use all these types of resources at once?

Resources Selection Chart	
Resources	I am going to use these ones
Books	✓
Magazines	✓
Websites	✓
Pictures	
Intrviews	

5. After the students have practised with several examples of inquiry questions, distribute individual Resources Selection Charts and invite students to think about which resources will support the class inquiry question or, if they are working individually, in pairs, or in small groups, their own inquiry questions. Ask students to explain the rationale for their choices.

Teaching Tip: For a whole-class inquiry, depending on the resources available, you may need to assign specific students to different resources so that there are enough resources available. You might establish an Inquiry Management Board allocating students to different resources. This could also change from day to day, so students have the opportunity to explore a range of resources. Use Velcro cards for the names of each resource, and change these each day to signify the new resources that each group of students will be using.

Inquiry Management Board Chart

Monday	
Resources	Names
Books	
Magazines	
Websites	
Pictures	
Intrviews	
DVDs	
Audio	

Resources Selection Chart

Resources	I am going to use these ones
Books	
Magazines	
Websites	
Pictures	
Intrviews	
DVDs	
Audio	
(other)	

Resources Selection Chart

Resources	I am going to use these ones
Books	
Magazines	
Websites	
Pictures	
Intrviews	
DVDs	
Audio	
(other)	