

Learning together

Asking Questions to Better Understand

ACTIVITY #11

SEQUENCE: STRATEGIES WHILE READING
2ND CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The objective of this activity is to learn how to ask questions when reading to check and adjust our knowledge.



Relevance of the activity

Asking questions while reading allows you to

- **reflect** on what you have just learned, make connections to what you already know and adjust your knowledge
- **be active** and react to the text



Supplies

To do this activity, you can use:

- the text in the appendix
- the school texts that your child must read
- a book at their reading level



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today we are going to learn how to ask questions when reading to check and adjust our knowledge.

Explain why:



Let's look at what this strategy allows us to do:

- Check your understanding;
- Make links between what you already know about the topic and new knowledge;
- Be active and engaged during your reading;
- React to the text.

Explain when:



You can use this strategy while reading to check your understanding.

Try it together:



But you may be wondering what we might ask as we're reading?

Here are a few examples:

- what will happen (predictions)
- what we think we will learn (reading intention)
- the meaning of a new word (understanding)
- a new fact (react)



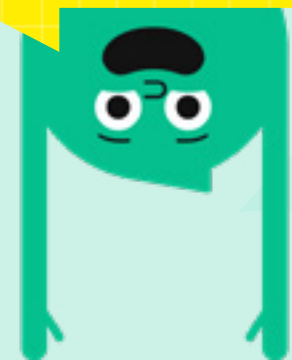
Once again let's take the text *A Voyage Through Forests* (see appendix) and read it together. (While reading, ask the following questions related to the text)

- I wonder what kinds of mysteries forests hide!
- That's interesting! I wonder how small bushes grow if there is not a lot of light getting through? I do not know if the author will answer this question in this text.
- I wonder if it is because it is always wet that there is a lot of shiny foliage.
- I understand that the animals' way of life and the growth of the vegetation is changing because snow is melting earlier. But I wonder if this is a positive or negative change? I want to know more!
- I think it's this type of forest that surrounds us here in Canada because that's what happens every autumn, just before Halloween.
- Hmm, I wonder if I can make a link with this information and the forest fires from last summer (June 2023).
- I wonder how I could do a bit more to help protect our planet.

You see, I asked myself a lot of questions as I was reading to make connections between what I was reading and my knowledge and personal experiences. It helps me to be more attentive, satisfy my curiosity and connect new knowledge to what I already know.

Quick tips!

Sometimes, instead of asking a question, we make a comment:
I didn't know that there is a different type of forest in northern Canada: taiga.



A Voyage Through Forests

Dear Adventurers, come and discover our beautiful forests!
Forests are like large families of trees, each with its own mystery.
Slip on your boots and get ready for an incredible adventure!

Rainforests

Welcome to the rainforest! Imagine you are walking through a **jungle** where the trees are so high that they block the sun's rays. Here, there is a lot of shiny foliage. Did you know that rainforests are located **near the equator**, where it is always hot and humid? They are home to exotic animals such as monkeys and colourful parrots. Unfortunately, tropical forests and the animals that live in them are not immune to deforestation.



Boreal forests

Now imagine a forest where the trees are covered with sparkling snow. Also called taiga, the boreal forest is found in countries where it is very cold, such as **northern Canada and Russia**. In these forests, we find **conifers** such as firs, spruce and tamaracks. Because of climate change, snow is melting earlier, affecting the growth of trees and shrubs, as well as the way of life of the animals that live there, such as black bears.



Temperate forests

We end our voyage in the temperate forests. Here we find conifers, but also hardwoods such as maple and birch. This type of forest is found in Europe and North America. The colour of the trees' leaves changes with the seasons, putting on a spectacular show, especially in autumn. Throughout the year, you see different species of bird, squirrel and deer. Temperate forests are increasingly affected by forest fires because the weather is warmer and there is less precipitation.



Lastly, forests give us fresh air and are home to a wide variety of animals, both big and small! They're the lungs of the Earth. By taking care of our planet and planting trees, we can help protect these beautiful places for generations to come.



See you soon for another adventure,
Jean Bouleau