

Questions Are QUESTS

Question the question.

Examine the question closely. What is it asking? What kind of thinking will it take to respond to it? Will you be developing an explanation, making a comparison, developing an argument, thinking speculatively, etc.?

Understand that you are on a "quest."

You will be going on a collaborative search with your classmates for ideas and information that can help you respond to the question. The idea is not to find a quick answer; the idea is to build and refine your response over time as you learn more during the unit.

Establish what you know.

Your prior knowledge is often a powerful tool to help you begin building your response. What do you already know about the topic of the question? Jot down anything you know or have learned that might help you respond to the question.

Search for information and ideas.

As you learn more during the unit, be on the lookout for any ideas or information that can help you develop and add to your response. Make notes and/or pictures to capture important information and to help you recall what you have learned when you need it.

Talk about your ideas.

We learn better when we have the chance to test, compare, and think through our ideas with other people. Share your ideas and look for ways to make them stronger whenever your teacher gives you opportunities to talk with a partner, in small groups, or as a whole class.

Show what you know.

A good response will show that you understand the relevant material from the unit. Before developing your response, look back on your learning. What's important to include in your response? How can you organize your ideas to make your response clear?

