

Sample Units

When you visit the Inquiry Page, you can find the following sample Units by searching for keywords from their titles. Please note that some Units may appear in more than one version in the database.

- How do educators use Chickscope to help students learn?
- What library and information services are provided for librarians serving the Latino community? How can we present these in the form of a website to librarians and other information professionals?
- Poetry as Play
- How many ways can you slice a cube?
- Do you know that a class business is a great way to engage learners in inquiry and use a multi-disciplinary approach?
- How Can Internet Access Enhance the Lives of the Elderly?

See the Inquiry Page's partner projects for further exploration:

Biology Student Workbench project
<http://peptide.ncsa.uiuc.edu/>

Bugscope project
<http://bugscope.beckman.uiuc.edu/>

Dialogues in Methods of Education
<http://www.mste.uiuc.edu/dime/>

Distributed Knowledge Research Collaborative
<http://www.dkrc.org/>

The Illinois Chickscope project
<http://chickscope.beckman.uiuc.edu/>

National Biology Digital Library project
<http://www.inquiry.uiuc.edu/partners/nbdl/nbdl.php3>

Office for Mathematics, Science,
and Technology Education
<http://www.mste.uiuc.edu/>

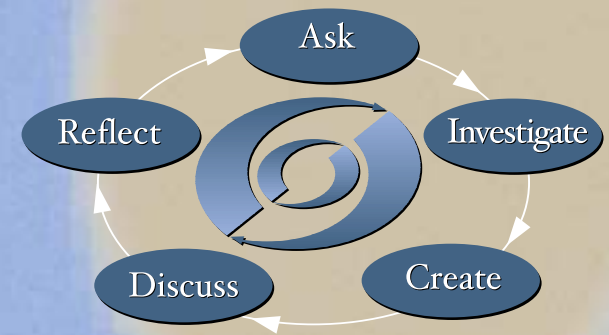
Plants, Pathogens, and People project
<http://nautilus.outreach.uiuc.edu/ppp/>

The RiverWebSM program
<http://theriverweb.org/>

Contact

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The Inquiry Page



“It is not the answer that enlightens but the question.”

Eugène Ionesco

<http://inquiry.uiuc.edu/>

What is the Inquiry Page project?

The Inquiry Page project has two equally important parts. The first is a free website that offers resources to facilitate inquiry-based learning: information about inquiry workshops, links to articles on inquiry, a calendar of events, links to researchers who collaborate with teachers to create rich learning environments, and the Inquiry Units. An Inquiry Unit is an online document that lists activities and resources that enable you and other learners to pursue a particular query. You may use the Inquiry Unit Generator to produce your own online course units, lesson plans, project outlines, workshop plans...the possibilities are endless! And you may search the database of available Units for ideas.

The second part of the project consists of a large, diverse and dynamic community that uses and further develops the Inquiry Page. We are technologists, educators, museum coordinators, librarians, and generally interested people who meet weekly at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to talk about the website design and inquiry-based learning. We are biologists, language arts specialists, grassroots organizers, mathematicians, writers, and neighborhood leaders who use the website's resources to pursue queries that interest us—and, in doing so, we often contribute further resources. You are welcome to join us, either for the meetings at UIUC or virtually on the website.

What is Inquiry-based learning?

Inquiry-based learning is based on John Dewey's philosophy that education—in whatever setting it occurs—must be centered on the learner. Rather than simply listening to a lecture or memorizing a book, the learner begins by asking a meaningful question. The learning cycle then entails investigating, creating, discussing and reflecting as the learner works on the initial question. Ideally, this cycle need not end, but spirals outward to other questions informed by what was learned in the initial Inquiry.

Who uses the Inquiry Page?

The Inquiry Page was initiated in 1996 to support a university course. Since then, it has expanded rapidly to include educators and students from preschool to graduate school, professionals in many fields, members of volunteer groups, and civic organizers. Inquiry-based approaches to learning prosper in many settings and support many purposes. Anyone who wants to use the Inquiry Page is welcome to do so.

Can students use the Inquiry Page?

Yes! Students are welcome to use the Inquiry Page. Also, educators may adapt Inquiry Units so that they are appropriate for any grade level.

Do I need training to use the Inquiry Page?

If you have basic computer skills, becoming proficient at the Inquiry Page should be a snap. The best way to learn about the site is to explore it. Also, please check out our tutorial, which you can find at <http://www.inquiry.uiuc.edu/help>

The Inquiry Page members at UIUC offer workshops to groups. If you are interested in setting up a workshop, please contact Dr. Bertram (Chip) Bruce at chip@uiuc.edu.

How can I find out more about the Inquiry Page?

- Visit the Inquiry Page website at <http://inquiry.uiuc.edu/>
- Participate in any of the discussion forums located at http://nautilus.outreach.uiuc.edu/inquiry_forum/index.asp
- Join the Inquiry group email list. Just send mail to inquiry-all-subscribe@isrl.uiuc.edu

Mission statement

The Inquiry Group is a diverse, evolving group of educators, learners, professionals and community members. We have come together to create tools, develop research opportunities, and build social and professional networks for discussing, understanding and fostering inquiry-based learning.