



Exploring Leadership

ADAPTABILITY: CURIOSITY

Curiosity makes us ask, "Why?" and "What if?" It drives discoveries, inventions, and new ideas. Without curiosity, we wouldn't have space travel, smartphones, or great stories. Whether you're solving a mystery, exploring a new hobby, or wondering how something works, curiosity helps you grow. The more questions you ask, the more you learn.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

Show this [2-minute video on curiosity](#). Ask participants: How can you recognize a curious person? (They ask thoughtful questions and seek deeper understanding.)

You've probably heard the phrase, "Curiosity killed the cat." But did you know there's more? The full saying is, "...but satisfaction brought it back." Asking questions can feel risky, but the reward—learning something new—is worth it. The best questions don't just ask for quick facts; they spark discussions, inspire ideas, and deepen understanding.

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Great conversations start with great questions! In this activity, you'll practice curiosity by asking and identifying open-ended questions that spark deeper discussions.

FACILITATOR TIPS:

- Optional: Have participants ask questions using different tones or attitudes—like formal vs. casual, or genuinely curious vs. disinterested.
- Compare how a police interrogation feels versus a friendly chat between two friends. How does the tone of the question change the way people respond?

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Understand how curiosity fuels problem-solving and deeper understanding.
- Learn to ask open-ended questions that lead to meaningful conversations.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Internet access and video capability (to play [Richard Feynman's video on curiosity](#))
- Copies of Interview Questions (see Appendix) cut apart
- Pens or pencils and paper

- Pair up with someone and pretend you're meeting for the first time.
- One person will be the interviewer and receive a list of questions (see Appendix), while the other will be the interviewee and answer them.
- After the interview, both partners will go through the questions together and identify which ones are open-ended. What do they notice about these types of questions?
- Each person will then write two or three open-ended questions of their own, and use them to interview their partner again.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How did different types of questions affect the depth and detail of the answers?
- Which type of question led to the most engaging discussion? Why?
- What happened when you asked open-ended questions? Did they spark curiosity, lead to deeper conversations, or cause people to ask even more questions?
- Why do open-ended questions show true curiosity? How do they lead to better understanding?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- Would you describe yourself as a curious person? Why or why not?
- When can open-ended questions help you get better answers in real life? (Think about school, friendships, interviews, or solving problems.)
- How do open-ended questions help build trust or stronger connections? Can you think of a time when a great question led to a really meaningful conversation?



CONCLUSION:

Curiosity fuels creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. If people never challenged ideas or asked, “Is there a better way?” we wouldn’t have airplanes, life-saving medicines, or the internet. Every great discovery began with someone being curious enough to ask questions and explore new possibilities. Curiosity isn’t just about learning—it’s about shaping the future. So keep exploring, keep questioning, and never stop being curious. The world needs more curiosity, and it starts with you!

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REFERENCES

- The Surprising Power of Questions, by Alison Wood Brooks and Leslie K. John <https://hbr.org/2018/05/the-surprising-power-of-questions>
- 16 Ways to Cultivate Curiosity and Boost Your Brain Power by Bianca Solorzano, M.Ed. and Jennifer Mueller, JD <https://www.wikihow.com/Be-Curious>
- Curiosity - Featuring Richard Feynman: <https://youtu.be/UjEngEpiJKo> (2:08 minutes)
- How to Ask Open-Ended Questions: 20 Examples by Emma Cullen <https://www.mentimeter.com/blog/stand-out-get-ahead/how-to-create-open-ended-questions>



APPENDIX:

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is your full name?
 2. Why were you given that name?
 3. Where do you live?
 4. How did your family decide to move there?
 5. Who is your favorite teacher?
 6. What makes that teacher your favorite?
 7. When was the last time you went to a movie theater?
 8. How do you decide which movies to watch?
 9. What is your favorite food?
 10. What does your favorite food say about you?
 11. If you won a million dollars, how do you think your life would change?
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