

Curious Researcher: Ask, Find, Note & Explain

Use a simple research cycle with child-safe adult-selected sources and original note-taking.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Use a simple research cycle with child-safe adult-selected sources and original note-taking.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 A focused question guides research.

2 Notes should capture ideas in your own words, not copy whole passages.

3 Using more than one suitable source can help check information.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Turn three broad topics into focused questions.

Choose which of three sources best fits a question about planets, local weather or word meanings.

Rewrite a short fact into your own note without changing its meaning.

Mark which details need a source citation in a pretend fact card.

Compare two sources that disagree and identify what to check next.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Research one harmless topic with a trusted adult using two suitable sources; record only short notes.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a mini research card: question, two sources, three notes, one explanation and one next question.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Why not copy a whole source paragraph into your notes?

2. What makes a research question focused?

3. What should you do when reliable sources appear to disagree?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Curious Researcher: Ask, Find, Note & Explain”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

It is not original note-taking and can violate copyright; summarise understanding instead.

2. Suggested response

It is specific enough to investigate.

3. Suggested response

Check context, dates, source quality and seek additional reliable evidence.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

Print. Learn. Grow.