

Thoughts on Inquiry Teaching and Learning

It transforms classrooms into learning communities

Provides opportunities for

1. Students to formulate questions.
2. Students to investigate.
3. Students to communicate findings

It is NOT inquiry if..
1. Student's know what results they are supposed to get.
2. The teacher is working harder than the students!

It is constructivist

As it requires "intellectual work" on the part of the learner it needs to be "minds on" and not just "hands on"

IN AN INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THE TEACHER'S JOB IS NOT TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE, BUT TO HELP STUDENTS ALONG THEIR PROCESS OF DISCOVERING KNOWLEDGE.

Is usually collaborative
Students must work together to investigate and then must communicate and justify their findings, while all the time relating them to scientific knowledge

Inquiry does NOT always require practical work

#mindson

It should not be confused with discovery learning



INQUIRY

Inquiry continuum

What level suits you, your students and your learning intentions?

Teacher directed

Student directed

Limited

Structured

Guided

Open