Questions Worth Exploring

Follow one topic into several research questions

3.6.W.1 "Students will choose a topic of interest and generate several questions about it for research."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the topic the writer chooses. Then number the four research questions about that topic in the order they appear.

The Worm on the Path

1. At recess, I spotted a small earthworm on the wet path. I wanted to learn more about earthworms, so I picked them as my research topic. I could have picked the swings or the clouds, but the worm caught my attention. I wrote my topic at the top of my page. Then I asked, "Where do earthworms live when the ground is dry?"

2. I kept thinking about what I had seen. The worm moved across the path, and I wondered, "How do earthworms move without legs?" Nearby, fallen leaves covered the soil. That gave me another question: "What do earthworms eat?" Each question stayed close to my topic, but it asked about something different. I could look for answers in books about earthworms.

3. Back in class, I read my list. I still wanted to know more about the place where I found the worm. I added, "Why do earthworms come up after rain?" I now had questions about homes, movement, food, and rain. I almost wrote about whether worms are cool, but that would ask for an opinion, not a fact I could research.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic did the writer choose? Write the first question the writer asked about it.

2. Which research question did the moving worm lead the writer to ask?

3. Which detail led to the writer's food question? Write that research question too.

4. Which question asks about rain? Why is it better for research than asking whether worms are cool?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you care about that is not earthworms. Write your topic and four different questions you could research about it. Ask about more than one part of your topic.

ANSWER KEY

Questions Worth Exploring

GRADE 3 · 3.6.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the topic the writer chooses. Then number the four research questions about that topic in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic did the writer choose? Write the first question the writer asked about it.	**The topic is earthworms. The first question is, "Where do earthworms live when the ground is dry?"**
2	Which research question did the moving worm lead the writer to ask?	**"How do earthworms move without legs?"**
3	Which detail led to the writer's food question? Write that research question too.	**Fallen leaves covered the soil. The question is, "What do earthworms eat?"**
4	Which question asks about rain? Why is it better for research than asking whether worms are cool?	**"Why do earthworms come up after rain?" asks for an explanation the writer can research. Whether worms are cool asks for an opinion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Topic: Bicycles
How do bicycle brakes stop the wheels?
What materials are bicycle tires made from?
Why do bicycle tires have air inside?
How does a bicycle chain help the back wheel turn?

For the marking job, accept earthworms as the underlined topic and the four quoted research questions numbered in passage order. For Your Turn, accept any topic other than earthworms with four distinct, researchable questions about more than one part of it.