

Question Quest

Sort questions by who can help answer them.

2.13.A “generate questions for formal and informal inquiry with adult assistance;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

FORMAL INQUIRY

Formal questions help you learn facts. You can ask an expert or use a trusted source with adult help.

How do clouds make rain?

INFORMAL INQUIRY

Informal questions ask people you know about their ideas, choices, or experiences.

What pet would you like to have?

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the tag that fits each question, then choose two questions and tell how you knew.

1. Why do some trees lose leaves in fall? Ask a librarian.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

2. Which animals live in this pond? Ask a park ranger.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

3. What is your favorite recess game? Ask a classmate.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

4. How long does it take a seed to sprout? Look in a science book.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

5. What was your favorite part of the class trip? Ask a friend.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

6. How do you get to school? Ask a classmate.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

7. What do firefighters do during a fire? Ask a firefighter.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

8. What book did you read last night? Ask a friend.

FORMAL

INFORMAL

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new FORMAL question and one new INFORMAL question.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write one question that is FORMAL or INFORMAL. Tell who you would ask or where you would look, and tell why it fits.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Why do some trees lose leaves in fall? Ask a librarian.	FORMAL	It asks for a fact from a knowledgeable adult or source.
2	Which animals live in this pond? Ask a park ranger.	FORMAL	A park ranger is an expert who can share facts.
3	What is your favorite recess game? Ask a classmate.	INFORMAL	It asks for a classmate's personal choice.
4	How long does it take a seed to sprout? Look in a science book.	FORMAL	A science book can provide a fact.
5	What was your favorite part of the class trip? Ask a friend.	INFORMAL	It asks about a friend's experience.
6	How do you get to school? Ask a classmate.	INFORMAL	It asks about a classmate's daily routine.
7	What do firefighters do during a fire? Ask a firefighter.	FORMAL	A firefighter is an expert on this topic.
8	What book did you read last night? Ask a friend.	INFORMAL	It asks about a friend's experience.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FORMAL:** How does a caterpillar become a butterfly? Ask a science teacher.
- **INFORMAL:** What snack do you bring to practice? Ask a teammate.

Challenge: FORMAL: How do volcanoes erupt? I would use a science book with an adult because it gives facts.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Sort answers: 1 FORMAL, 2 FORMAL, 3 INFORMAL, 4 FORMAL, 5 INFORMAL, 6 INFORMAL, 7 FORMAL, 8 INFORMAL. For Part 2, accept explanations that name facts and experts or sources for formal questions, and personal ideas or experiences for informal questions.