

Question Quest

Sort questions, explain two choices, then write your own.

5.13.A “generate and clarify questions on a topic for formal and informal inquiry;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

FORMAL INQUIRY

A formal inquiry question seeks facts or evidence. You can answer it by using reliable sources, data, or research.

How do the stages of a butterfly's life cycle change its body?

INFORMAL INQUIRY

An informal inquiry question asks people about their experiences, choices, or opinions. You can answer it by talking with or surveying people.

What kind of music do you like to listen to?

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each question and circle FORMAL or INFORMAL, then choose two questions and explain how you knew.

1. What evidence shows that exercise affects heart health?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

2. Why do some volcanoes erupt explosively?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

3. How do you get to school each day?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

4. How do invasive plants affect native species in a pond?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

5. What book did you enjoy most this year?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

6. What snack would you choose for a class party?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

7. Which materials conduct electricity best?

FORMAL

INFORMAL

8. What family tradition do you look forward to?

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 inquiry question and one new INFORMAL inquiry question.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this broad question as a clear FORMAL inquiry question: What is pollution?

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	What evidence shows that exercise affects heart health?	FORMAL	It seeks evidence from research or health data.
2	Why do some volcanoes erupt explosively?	FORMAL	It asks for a scientific explanation found through research.
3	How do you get to school each day?	INFORMAL	It asks a person about a personal experience.
4	How do invasive plants affect native species in a pond?	FORMAL	It seeks evidence about ecosystems.
5	What book did you enjoy most this year?	INFORMAL	It asks for a personal opinion.
6	What snack would you choose for a class party?	INFORMAL	It asks for a personal choice.
7	Which materials conduct electricity best?	FORMAL	It can be answered with test results or scientific sources.
8	What family tradition do you look forward to?	INFORMAL	It asks about a person's family 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 sleep affect fifth graders' ability to focus during class?
- **INFORMAL:** What is one place you would like to visit?

Challenge: How do plastic bottles affect sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico?

For Part 2, students should explain that formal questions need evidence from research, while informal questions ask people for experiences, choices, or opinions. Accept other clear questions in Part 3 if they match the inquiry type.