

Question and Answer Session

This is a different and interesting way to check students' knowledge and understanding and to share their learning with the wider community. This activity makes the learning visible and all students, regardless of ability, are actively engaged in the session.

1. The students form panels of 3-4 members.
2. Clearly define the area of learning on which each panel will focus, for example areas could be:
 - Food
 - Description
 - Life cycle
 - Habitat
 - Interesting facts
 - Importance to the rainforest
 - Why an animal is endangered
 - How to care for an animal.
3. Each panel generates questions about their focus areas; this could involve other class members.
4. The panels discuss the questions and list what they already know and what they need to know to be able to answer questions.
5. Each member of the panel ensures they know and understand their focus area. This means they have to work collaboratively. This may take a few weeks as students will generate more questions as they increase their knowledge.
6. Focus on correct vocabulary and terminology.
7. Model asking questions such as why... how.... what if...why do you think?
8. The panels practice asking each other questions about their focus areas and giving information to others.
9. Invite parents into the classroom for a question and answer session. Parents ask questions of panels.
10. It might be necessary to 'prep' the parents beforehand with ideas for questions and the different types of questions to ask.
11. If students do not know answers to all questions that is OK. They might be able to use the knowledge they do have to think of a possible solution.
12. When a question is asked the panels have to decide if that question falls in their area of 'expertise'
13. They answer questions to the best of their ability
14. Each member of the panel must answer one question.
15. A variation to this is a Quiz night where parents and students are on opposing teams.
16. Older students could also take part in a quiz.

This activity gives teachers, students and parents an opportunity to assess their knowledge and understanding of the subject. It can help to foster different attitudes towards the subject and share ideas and experiences. It is a different way of involving parents in an open day experience as they have to be interactive for the success of the activity. It will also expose areas that might need to be revisited or new areas to explore.