

# WEEKLY MIDDLE SCHOOL LESSON

#KEEPLARNING



## Week Seven: Importance of Curiosity

**Overview:** This lesson introduces curiosity and why it could make a difference in teens' success in school and their ability to achieve in college and the workplace.

**Preparation:** Review the activity and session materials. Make sure your students have all the needed materials to complete the lesson.

**Recommended Time:** 45 mins

**Materials:** Computer/Tablet with Internet  
Printer (Optional)  
Blank Paper  
Writing Utensil

**1) Presentation:** Begin by asking your students, "What is curiosity is and why it's important?" After allowing students to share their thoughts, provide them with the following definition of curiosity. **Curiosity** means you eagerly explore new things, ask questions to deepen your understanding, and take an active interest in your learning.

Explain to your students that being curious and willing to explore can help us discover lots of new things. For example, we don't fully understand what the planet Mars might have on it, so NASA sent a land rover to Mars called The Mars Curiosity Rover. It has been roaming the surface of Mars for almost 10 years, with the goal of making any scientific discoveries that might help us in the future. Without curiosity, we would likely have never made it to the moon either. Curiosity is essential in learning and developing new things.

**2) Watch:** Have your students watch the video [Nurturing Teen Curiosity](#).

**3) Discussion:** After you watch the video, ask the following questions. You can ask them verbally or have students write out their answers.

1. Do you agree with Angela that many students become less curious as they get older?
2. Do you think it is important to be curious?
3. What are you curious about?

#### **4) Activity: Curiosity Quiz**

Students will now each take the Curiosity Profile Quiz by selecting the link below, the profile was developed by Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic through many research studies he's conducted on the importance of curiosity. Chamorro-Premuzic says: "Organizations and hiring managers are always on the lookout for people who ask smart questions, explore new ideas and solutions, and are eager to grow. Much of that mindset comes down to one vital quality: curiosity." The assessment will help students learn how they stack up against other test takers in three key areas: unconventionality, intellectual hunger, and experiential curiosity.

[Take the Curiosity](#)

[Quiz Curiosity Profile](#)

#### **Directions:**

1. Students should click on the quiz above.
2. They will read each sentence and simply answer "yes" or "no" if they feel the statement applies to them or not.
3. After students complete the quiz and they've received their curiosity profile outcome, have them map out their results here or by clicking on the curiosity profile button above.

Let your students know that they should keep in mind that their score is a reflection of how they see themselves right now. Knowing where they currently score may help them learn to push the boundaries and try new things, or simply be aware of their current behaviors. While taking the assessment, they might have noticed some of the questions seemed at odds with one another. Maybe they like meeting new people, but also like to stick to their group of friends when it comes to spending quality time together. The assessment is simply supposed to give them an idea of the ways in which we think, learn, and adapt.

**5) Discussion:** Ask students the following questions. You can ask them verbally or have students write out their answers.

1. In regards to each of your own personal curiosity profiles, were any of you surprised?
2. Do you believe you can become a different type of thinker, learner, or adapter?
3. Why might curiosity be important for you in the future?

### **6) Ongoing Activity: 5 Questions**

Ask your students to get a blank piece of paper and writing utensil and take 5 minutes and write down at least 5 questions that they have about anything. This could be school related or not. They do not have to share these with anyone and there are no bad ideas. After 5 minutes, ask if any of your students want to share their questions.

After a few students have shared, encourage them to take one of the questions that they are curious about each day and ask that question. They can ask family members, Google, YouTube, teachers, friends etc. After the week is over, ask students to share any findings that they came up with or what other questions were created by their research.

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**The Money JAR** - An expert on entrepreneurship, Tina Seeling has helped others use their curiosity and creativity to make their own luck. [Click here](#) to listen to this week's podcast episode on **Harness your Creativity**.

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## **Bonus Activity: Curiosity and Humility Short Film**

**Extended Activity:** 30 mins

**Materials:** Computer/Tablet with Excel (optional)

Blank paper

Writing utensil

**1) Overview:** Students will watch a video created by researchers at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This video is using a bunch of small fluffy mammals to teach teens the importance of curiosity, open-mindedness, and humility. The 15-minute film takes viewers through a clever reenactment of real life events: how two scientists from leading universities approached similar experiments differently and why it matters. In the end, the second scientist's curiosity, open-mindedness, and humility led to an even greater discovery than he was expecting.

**2) Discussion:** After you watch the video, ask the following questions. You can ask them verbally or have students write out their answers. You could also turn this into a writing assignment.

1. Think of a time that you were tasked with solving a problem. What was the problem?
2. How did you go about solving it?
3. Did you allow for new findings along the way or did you dismiss them so that you could get to the end result?
4. Do you think it is important to pay attention to details and ask for help if you need it?
5. Why is curiosity important in learning?