Epistemic Insight

THE FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

DISCOVERY BAGS AND INVESTIGATING BIG QUESTIONS

Igniting students' curiosity and developing their capacity to ask big questions through 'hands on' science

What makes a question a good question for science?

Canterbury Christ Church University

Epistemic Insight

This project expands the reach of our previous work on the 'Discovery Bags and Big Questions' strategy to an international arena to allow greater numbers of children, including those of disadvantage, to benefit from and experience practical 'hands on' scientific enquiry.

Students have access to an exciting 'discovery bag' of interactive science and Big Questions investigations supported by a range of practical materials and scientific tools to ignite their epistemic curiosity and capacity for critical thinking, encouraging individual agency.

The project has three immediate aims. The first is to help students appreciate that aspects of the natural world, such as the behaviour of water, are often the same in different parts of the world.

The next objective is for students to appreciate how science relates to the wider world of knowledge. As they discuss their findings, students are encouraged to talk about 'what makes a question a good one for science'. The third step focuses on interdisciplinarity and Big Questions. Big Questions are an opportunity to appreciate why and how science can work with other disciplines like history, geography, theology and the arts.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are planning an international pilot project, where we will collaborate with ASPnet leaders to assess what useful changes to make to the cards and investigations to tailor to their contexts.