

What If Curiosity

Book of What If...? Educator's Guide 2.1

What's in a Title?

Questions to be a more active reader and owner of the learning and outcomes you experience.

1. Based on the title alone, how would you describe the contents of the book?
2. How would you describe a “curious mind”?
3. Why do you think the title mentions “activities” in its subtitle?
4. What is the meaning of “if”?
5. Describe the connection between two or more images on the cover of the book.
6. What would you replace the ellipses (...) in the title with?
7. What makes you most curious about this book? What are you most excited to discover?
8. Why do you think the book comes with a warning on the back cover? How does this warning make you feel about what you're about to discover while reading *The Book of What If...?*

Before You Start

1. Read the Preface.
2. Note the chapters of the book; what if you could add another chapter? What would it be?
3. Mark any chapters, entries, or images that spark your curiosity.
4. When and where do you think is the best time to explore “what if”?
5. Why do you think asking “what if” is valuable to learning?
6. What is a current “what if” you can't get out of your head?
7. If you could ask anyone a “what if” question, who and what would you ask?
8. Do you think asking “what if” is more beneficial in understanding the past or anticipating the future? Why?

As You Read

These are some larger ideas to consider as you think through the book to help connect its contents within and to extend to ideas and actions beyond the books' pages.

1. For each chapter and entry, determine a central idea and explain how it is conveyed and supported through the text.
2. For entries that capture your curiosity, write a brief summary that is objective and free from your personal opinions.
3. For those same entries, write a short description of how it--the question and/or ideas mentioned--connect to a personal experience.
4. For entries that contain questions you have wondered before, describe any similarities or differences in what is shared or discovered after asking the question.
5. For entries you find helpful, write out a sentence or two why.
6. For entries that a clear answer would be helpful to you, one of your classes, something your curious about, or your community, briefly explain why.
7. Find entries you think, if answered, would make your life better; why?
8. Find entries you think, if answered, would make the world a better place; why?

What If Curiosity

More Specifically

1. How do the themes of the chapters (History, People, Stuff, Nature) all connect together and all connect to something you're curious to learn more about?
2. How does something you're curious to learn more about or something you're doing in one of your classes connect to the themes of all four chapters?
3. What are specific historical "what ifs" from the book that would have significant impact on your life or what you are learning today? In what ways would your education be different as a result?
4. Who are specific people "what ifs" from the book that would have significant impact on your life, community, and/or education? In what ways would your life, community, and/or the world be different as a result?
5. What are some specific stuff "what ifs" from the book that would have significant impact on your life, community, and/or the world today? In what ways would your life, community, and/or the world be different as a result?
6. What are some specific nature "what ifs" from the book that would have significant impact on your life, community, and/or the world? In what ways would your life, community, and/or the world be different as a result?
7. What are some of the most important businesses, discoveries, or social movements you believe were sparked because of a well-worded "what if"?
8. Describe the most incredible discovery you've experienced asking "what if"?

Turn Your Curiosity Into Actions

1. I am now curious about _____
2. Something I discovered _____
3. Something I learned that can help me today _____
4. I did not realize how connected _____ is with _____
5. It is important to be actively curious because _____
6. Curiosity can help my life, community, and/or the world by _____
7. I am now ready to _____ using my curiosity for _____
8. In order to stay curious and do more with my curiosity and the curiosity of others, I must _____

WhatIfCuriosity.com

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