

Habits of Mind Sample Questions

Math

Why is being able to tell time important?

Given what we know about subtraction, which number should the subtraction sentence begin with when given these number choices?

After exploring patterns with our snap cubes, can you see any patterns in our room? Let's find 2 or 3 with the friends in our groups.

Given what we know about groups of 1's, 2's, and 3's, how many objects are in a pair?

As you recall using the Counting Up method for addition, what did you notice about the speed in finding your answer when you started with the highest number?

Knowing what we know about shapes, how are flat shapes different from space shapes?

Knowing what we know about space shapes, what do you think would happen to the shapes with curved surfaces when they are placed on a flat surface?

Given what you know about shapes, what flat shapes appear on different space shapes?

Speculate how the five times tables is similar to telling time.

What did you notice about the multiplication table that we made in class?

Why do you suppose that there are so many patterns in multiplication?

Given what you know about place value, what do you notice about the numbers 81 and 18 that make them similar and different?

Now that we know how to divide 10 counters into equal groups, what if we added 1? Could we make equal groups with 1 more? How can we explain, using our words, the answer to that question?

How can you tell time?

Why do you suppose knowing how to tell time is important?

What kinds of things can telling time help us do?

Let's brainstorm things we can do in a minute...

Given what you know about fractions, when do you anticipate that you would use them in your daily lives?

Given what you know about measurement, why do you think we measure objects differently?

Why do you suppose the calculator displays 85.5 rather than \$85.50?

What do you think the reason is for having calculators drop extra zeros on the right, past the decimal point?

How do you feel as a learner using a calculator that doesn't put a zero at the end of decimals?

Given what you know about bar graphs, why would it be helpful to place the bars in order from least to greatest?

As you review your line graphs, what information could you learn from the graphs even if you hadn't included the number of hours?

What kinds of information can graphs provide us with?

Given what you know about large numbers, why is it important to place the commas in the correct place?

Why do we need numbers?

Why do we need to know how to count?

Why do we need to recite the number rhymes?

Why do we need to measure?

Why could two people get different answers when measuring the same thing?

What kinds of things need to get measured outside of school? Why?

Given what you know about addition, what do you notice about the numbers used in a fact family?

We have discussed many times how we use our sense to gather information from our world...Please list the five senses.

What sense do you think is the one you use the most? Why?

What senses the strongest sense for a bear?

What kinds of information can the gather from their world using this sense? Why is this important to them?

Using our pattern blocks, show me the difference between a design and a pattern.

After exploring patterns with our pattern blocks, can you see any patterns on your clothes? In our room? Let's work in our color groups (3 students) to locate patterns.

As you recall the plan Hansel & Gretel's stepmother had for them...what was Hansel's plan to solve the problem?

Given what we know about subtraction, which number should you start with when using the number line?

As you think back to using the counting down method for subtraction, which direction will you travel when using the number line?

As you consider the amount of time it took you to add the 3 numbers and to multiply them, what did you notice?

Given what you know about the 2, 4, 6 and 8 times tables, what patterns can you identify?

As you reflect, when do you think multiplication be used instead of addition?

As you reflect back on the space shapes that we have been working with, what flat shapes can be found on some of the space shapes' faces?

As you recall the numbers one to one hundred, how do you think you can make one hundred?

Given what you know about place value, how many tens are in one hundred sixty? How can you show this number using a hundred block, tens, or ones?

As you look back at our counting chart from 1 to 100, what pattern do you see when we use it to skip count by 2's?

As you look back at our counting chart from 1 to 100, what pattern do you see when we use it to skip count by 5's?

Language Arts

What do you think Gabi felt about entering another contest? (*The Goopy Chewy Contest* by Howard Goldsmith)

What do you think would have happened if the United States did not drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima? (*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*)

Why do you think the children are excited about the pet show? (*The Pet Show*)

Do you think that Archie deserves a prize for his pet germ? Why or why not?

Archie lets the woman keep the blue ribbon. What does that tell you about him?

What do you think the character in *The Blue Spruce* felt when the blue spruce tumbled to the ground during the storm, and why?

As you reflect on the story, *The Blue Spruce*, why do you think the boy was persistent in helping his dad to replant the tree?

Given what you know about the woodcutter and his wife, how were they rewarded for their sacrifice from the fairy?

Why do you suppose the woodcutter and his wife's arguing and impatience with one another caused them to waste their wish?

What do you think the characters felt when their wishes caused them to end up with only a plate of sausages?

What are some of the ways that John Midas changed from the beginning of *The Chocolate Touch* to the ending of the story?

How were you able to infer that John Midas seemed happier at the ending of the story?

Given what you know about published books, what do you suppose your own book should have?

Given what you know about published book covers, what do you suppose your own book cover should have?

Given what you know about published book titles, what did you notice about your own book title?

Imagine that you are one of the Alden children from *The Boxcar Children: The Pizza Mystery*. How would you work as part of the team to help solve the Piccolos' problems?

Given what you already know about the components of a folk tale, work together in a small group to create your own folk tale.

How does the folk tale *The Persian Carpet* compare to *The Boxcar Children: The Pizza Mystery*? Use a Venn diagram to illustrate your comparisons and contrasts.

Write down a new "amazing" fact you read about in the article. Why do you think this is an "amazing" fact?

What else would you like to learn about this topic?

Now, choose one of the facts. What does it remind you of in your life?

Given what you know about the cob in the book *The Trumpet of the Swan*, how do you think he will resolve his feelings of guilt about stealing the trumpet for Louis?

As you envision Louis becoming a trumpeter at Camp Kookooskoos, how do you think the other campers will receive him?

Given what you know about the law, do you think that the cob was justified in stealing the trumpet for Louis?

Given what you know about the "computer age", how do you think the invention of the computer affects our lives today?

What are some of the ways in which Donald Crew's story *Big Mama's* compares with his story *Shortcut*?

As you reflect on the main character Noah in *Summer Discovery*, tell how you think his feelings changed during the story.

The sentence is fine how it is, but how can you make it even better?

Can you try to come up with two or three new leads before choosing one for your next draft?

What do you think Tilly felt when Matthew broke her crayon?
What did you notice about the similarities of both of these characters? How can we use our Venn diagrams to write one sentence about how the two characters are the same?

Given what you know about sequencing, how do we use sequencing everyday?
What important things do we do, or use that should be sequenced?

I wonder how this book might be different if the story were told by Reggie (main character's best friend who was acting strangely) instead of Ira (main character)...let's brainstorm what Reggie might have said/done....

What could Sally and her brother have done differently to solve the problem of the Cat in the Hat? Was there more than one way to solve the problem? What might you have done if you were in Sally's position?

Given what you know about persisting and how we persist at home and school, what is one way that Dr. Seuss persisted and succeeded in his life? (This is asked after the discussion of Dr. Seuss' life and a read aloud of his short biography)

As you recall the story, Mr. Lee, why do you think the other characters were not brave?

Given what you know about rainbows, why do you think Mr. Lee's windows made rainbows?

As you think about the story, *The Fox and the Grapes*, why do you think the fox did not have the grapes in the end? How might the fox have been persistent about achieving his goal?

Thinking about other stories that we have read, how would you compare the fox to other characters, like the Toad from *Frog and Toad* stories? How is the Fox the same (compare) and how is he different (contrast) from the other characters...

Could you rewrite your closing so the reader can actually feel what you felt without telling them that you were sad? (Striving for accuracy) (Open to continuous learning)

As you think about our quiet time spent outside observing nature which natural object would you want to describe in detail?

What ideas do you have to design a haiku using your descriptive outline?

Why was it better that we first spent time looking, listening, touching and observing our objects before writing?

As you recall Make Way for Ducklings, what did you notice about the format and storyline of the video versus the book?

After reading, *A Happy Day*, think about what the animals were doing. Why was it a happy day?

How do you think the animals knew it was Spring? Did the air feel a certain way? Did it smell a particular way? Think about the way Spring smells like, feels like, and sounds like.

As you recall the story, The Little Red Hen, we read in our anthology, how does that version compare to The Little Red Hen, written by Barry Downard?

As you consider writing a Grandparents diamond poem, why do you suppose you need to choose the words you use in your poem carefully?

As you consider your summer vacation, how do you feel about the events of those weeks?

As you anticipate this year in first grade, what do you think is important for you to learn?

As you think back to the book, The Country Mouse and the City Mouse, what kind of things can be found in a city?

As you think back to the book, The Country Mouse and the City Mouse, what kind of things can be found in the country?

As you reflect on the story, *Big Pumpkin*, how do you feel the characters persisted?

As you recall using counters on our math work mat, how do you think they helped you to add?

Sample of Leveled Questions:

Knowledge: How would you use a Venn diagram to label the character traits of Charlotte and Wilbur to create a strong visual image of each?

Knowledge: Can you select and highlight those traits that deal with the theme of friendship?

Comprehension: Which statements support your idea of being a good friend?

Comprehension: How would you explain what makes Charlotte or Wilbur a good friend?

Application: What examples can you find in the book that illustrate the friendship of Charlotte and Wilbur?

Application: What would result if Charlotte were not able to find new words to describe Wilbur?

Application: What approach might you use to help save Wilbur if you were Charlotte?

Analysis: What motive did Charlotte have in helping Wilbur?

Analysis: What motive did Templeton have in helping Wilbur?

Analysis: Can you make a distinction between the two types of motivation?

Synthesis: Suppose you could change the ending of the book, what would you do to modify it?

Synthesis: Can you formulate a theory why Charlotte and Wilbur became such good friends?

Evaluation: Why did Wilbur decide to take such good care of Charlotte's egg sac?

Evaluation: If you were one of Charlotte's children, what choice would you make as to whether to stay in the barn or leave to see the world?

Evaluation: How would you justify your choice?

Given what you know about numbers, how many bears will be left in the "Ten Cave" if six bears go hunting?

As you recall the story Wemberly Worried, why do you suppose Wemberly was worried when she found herself alone in the forest?

Summarize a reading passage about bats and rats.

How did you organize your details to know what information to include?

As you recall the story, The Little Engine That Could, how did the little engine show persistence?

As you reflect on the story Hug, do you think you ever felt like Bobo did at the beginning of the story?

As you consider the holiday of Thanksgiving, why do you suppose you should be thankful for your family?

As you recall holidays your family has celebrated, do you think other children and their families celebrate in similar ways? Why or why not?

Given what you know about persistence, how do think you show persistence while writing an original story?

As you anticipate reading the story Jane and Jake, how do the pictures on the cover of this story compare to the pictures on the cover of the story The Three Billy Goats Gruff?

As you consider the beginning of an original story you will be writing during Writer's Workshop, do you think the characters in the story will show persistence?

As you recall the story we read, how did the characters show persistence?

Given what you know about Ramadan, Diwali and Las Posadas, what traditions are similar to the traditions of Hanukkah?

As you recall the many books we have read about holiday celebrations, why do you suppose we are sharing latkes this week?

As you reflect on our Festival of Lights Tour, how does the holiday your family celebrates at this time of year to one of the holidays you learned about during our Tour?

Given what you know about persistence, how did the authors that we studied show persistence with their writing?

Given what you know about your own work as an author, how have you shown persistence with your writing?

What is the difference between a poem and a story?

What aspects of a word family make them a "family"?

Are all rhyming words part of a word family? How can it be proved?

If a set of shapes or letters doesn't repeat, how can it still be a pattern?

Ex. o, oo, ooo, oooo, ooooo, ___?___ 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, ___?___

Why do we need a calendar?

How does learning to tell time help us?

Social Studies

Given what we've learned about Veterans' Day, what kind of card would you envision to create for the Veterans in the N.J. Veteran's Home?

Given what you know about Veterans, why do you think we should honor them on November 11?

I wonder why the Pilgrims made their village so close to the ocean?

Given what we know about clay, why do you think that people have used it to build their homes?

Given what we know about moist clay, what do you think will happen to the clay as we shape it into beads with our warm fingers?

How do you feel when you play with your friend?

When you hear Thanksgiving, what do you think of?

What are you thankful for?

Who makes you happy?

What does _____ do that makes you happy?

Now that we know what a neighborhood is, name something you would find in a neighborhood.

As you envision your family sharing a holiday, how does this compare to other families in our class who also share family holidays?

How might you sequence the events that had a great effect in changing the Native American way of life?

What are some of the benefits of the Native American naming process?

If you were a Native American, speculate on what your name might be and why or how you would have gotten the name.

How do you think Martin Luther King, Jr. felt when people were not being treated equally?

Given what you know about Martin Luther King, Jr., why do you think he was a good leader for all people?

What do you suppose you would put into your own "I have a dream..." speech?

Do you feel that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech is still relevant today? Speculate what might happen if he gave the speech today.

Given what you know about Martin Luther King Jr, why do you think it is important to honor him?

As you reflect on the dreams of Martin Luther King Jr. do you have any dreams that you are passionate about?

As you consider what we have learned about Dr. King, what do you think are the most important qualities that he possessed which made him a good leader? Why are these qualities important?

As you reflect on the words and ideals of Dr. King you will recall that he felt strongly that all people should be treated fairly. Describe a time when you were not treated fairly and how did you respond and feel?

Describe something that you could do to make the world a better place.

What are some of the ways we are alike?

What are some of the ways we are different?

If you were Martin Luther King, how do you think you would react to how you were being treated?

What are some things you can do if you feel that you are being treated unfairly?

What do you think Dr. King would tell us to do to help others?

Let's think about that we just saw in the video about the Post Office.

Who can give me an example of something we will need in our Post Office to make it work?

Who will work there?

What will their responsibilities be?

What is a leprechaun?

What questions would you ask in an interview with a leprechaun?

Given what you know about Economics, compare the needs and the wants of a first grader to the needs and wants of their parents.

How do you think going to school in colonial times compares to today's classrooms? Which would you prefer and why? (Thinking independently)

As we read about the White Witch and Aslan in the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, are there any comparisons we can make to the Revolutionary War and King George III and the Colonies?

As you reflect about the colonists' problems, would you have felt the same way if you were in their position?

What do you already know about Native Americans?

How can you find out more about Native Americans?

When the Europeans came to America what was their point of view about the land? Why do you think they felt that way?

What was the point of view of the Native Americans already living here? Why do you think they felt that way?

How did the difference in points of view cause problems? Give examples.

How could the two groups have compromised? Give examples.

How might our country be different today if the Europeans had shared the land with the Native Americans?

Why did the United States drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima?

Would the war have ended as soon if they did not drop it?

How would you explain the reasons for dropping the bomb on a city where innocent civilians live?

How would you describe the effects of dropping the bomb?

As you consider answering the following questions regarding geography, why would it be important to first learn the vocabulary that pertains to geography?

Given what you know about your address in Paramus, why do you think it is important to also learn where we are located on the Earth as well as the Universe?

As you reflect upon the neighborhood map that you created, how did you indicate your house on the map key?

As you reflect upon the neighborhood map that you created, what other symbols, besides your house, did you include on the map key?

As you reflect back on what we discovered about Diwali, what traditions are similar to the traditions of Ramadan?

Given what you know about Ramadan and Diwali, what traditions are similar to the traditions of Las Posadas?

Given what you just learned about Colonial children, what are some of the similarities you can identify?

As you envision yourself as a Colonial child, how do you think your life would be different?

Name at least 5 differences between your life and the life of a Colonial child.

Given what you know about maps, why do you think we needed passports for our Festival of Lights Tour?

Science

Given what you know about hurricanes, give some ways you could be prepared for one.

What do you think is the most dangerous natural disaster? Explain.

How has Hurricane Katrina affected you personally?

What do you think will happen if you try to stand on one foot without holding onto anything?

Given what you know about balance and motion, what do you think will happen when you stand with your feet slightly apart from each other?

Predict what objects in the test packet will be magnetic and which will not be.

As you consider which objects were magnetic, form a hypothesis for what they share in common.

What did you notice about the objects that were not magnetic?

I wonder if you can turn an object into a magnet. What do you speculate?

As you recall searching for stable positions in our science balance investigation with the triangle and half circle, where did the counterweights need to be placed in relationship to the balance point, in order to achieve a stable position?

As you recall searching for stable positions in our science balance investigation with the triangle and half circle, where were the counterweights placed in relationship to the balance point, when a stable position was not achieved?

What kinds of things do you like to do in the snow?

How do you know it is winter?

What would happen to the fish when the water freezes in the lakes and rivers?

Imagine what life would be like as if you lived in the Arctic.

What do you suppose would happen if the heat in your house stopped working. How would you keep warm?

Close your eyes and think of what colors remind you of winter. Why did you choose these colors?

Given what you know about balance, where would be the best balance point on the crayfish?

Given what you know about balance, where should the counterweights be placed in relationship to the balance point, on the crayfish?

Close your eyes and visit your mind's eye; picture our last snowy day.

- What does it look like? Color?
- How does it feel?
- How does it sound?
- Stick your tongue out and taste it... how do you feel?
- What are you doing in the snow?

Given what you know about spinning, what do you predict will happen to the roller when you change the wheel size?

Given what you know about spinning, what did you notice happening to the roller when you changed the wheel size?

What is a rainbow?

Where can you find rainbows?

How are rainbows formed?

Can you list the colors in a rainbow?

How do you know it is spring?

Can you list the parts of a flower and their functions?

As you reflect on your knowledge of houses what are some other objects that are houses for objects (i.e. a orange is a house for an orange seed, a glove is a house for a hand, trash cans are houses for garbage, etc.)?

Why do we need plants?

What is wind? How would you describe it?

How can you tell it is windy outside?

How is wind helpful?

How is wind harmful?

What would result if there were no wind?

Can you list three things that the wind will blow and three things that it won't blow.

Now that we have learned about the four layers of the rainforest, let's think about where we would find the canopy of our classroom rainforest.

Let's think about the story of The Great Kapok Tree and the kinds of things the animals were telling the man. Given what these characters were saying, why do you think they did not want the man to cut down the Kapok Tree?

Now that we have constructed a list of all the things we know about the rainforest, let's pretend we are in a rainforest. I want you to close your eyes and think about the way the rainforest sounds, smells, feels. Write or illustrate your thoughts so we can share them with one another.

As we construct a list of products that come from the rainforest, try to think of some objects in our classroom that could have come from the rainforest.

Given what you know about insects, what changes do you suppose will occur in the next few weeks?

Given what you know about insects, what stage of growth are our mealworms in right now?

As you think back to the life cycle of the mealworm, what is the next stage of growth for our mealworms?

Given what you know about insects, what stage of growth are our silkworms in right now?

As you think back to the life cycle of the silkworms, what is the next stage of growth for our silkworms?

As you anticipate the growth cycle of a painted butterfly, how do you think it will compare to the growth cycle of a silkworm?

As you think back to the story, Peter and the Rocks, how can we group the rocks from our rock museum collection into categories like Peter did?

As you compare the categories for our class rock museum, which groups matched Peter's from the story, Peter and the Rocks?

If you don't know what to do, what senses could you use to figure it out so that you don't need to ask the teacher?

What does summer look like?

What does fall look like?

What is similar and different about them?

Can you identify the different parts of a bat and rat?

If you could design a new kind of bat or rat, what would it be like?

How had your opinion about bats and rats changed since reading the article?

Given what you know about rocks, what do you anticipate will happen when you rub two rocks together?

As you recall your group's rock rubbing investigation, how did the color of the paper affect the color of the rock dust?

Given what you know about moist clay, what will happen if you touch it too much with your hands?

As you think back to the clay bead you made, why did the clay start to crack when you formed it with your hands?

Given what you know about rocks, which type of rock do you think this is?

Health

Suppose you could eat anything you wanted for one whole day. What would you eat?

What would you select to eat for a healthy meal?

Why is it important to bring healthy snacks to school?

Given what you know about keeping safe both inside and outside of school, why is it important to push in your chair when you get up?

Suppose you ate only foods loaded with sugar, what do you think that would do for your body?

When your mind becomes overloaded with too many areas of trivia, what do you think could happen?

As you consider the importance of Fire Safety, why do you suppose smoke alarms are important to have in your home?

Given what you know about the danger of fire, what would you do if your clothes were on fire?

As you think back to our visit with Fire Fighter Joe, what did he tell us to do if your clothing catches on fire

Given what you know about fire safety, how many ways out of a room should you plan to have?

Given what you know about sugar, what do you think would be the more nutritious drink - 100% juice or Capri Sun?

As you recall what we said about fats, why would plain turkey be better for your health than salami?

Identify some of the foods from the fruit group that would be easy for you to bring to school as a snack.

PRE K QUESTIONS

We went on a listening walk, and used pictures to keep track of all we heard. Next, I asked the following questions:

1. We heard a piano. What were the students doing?
2. We heard loud voices and playing in gym. What were they playing with?
How do we do good listening?