



SALiS Training

EXPERIENCING INQUIRY LEARNING



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Inquiry-Based Learning



Inquiry-based learning (IBL) has its roots in constructivist theories, with the teacher's primary role being that of a facilitator.



Experiencing Inquiry Learning



A starting point for inquiry learning

Product inquiry

- ‘Product inquiry’ is a variation on the theme of IBL.
- Essentially the ‘product inquiry’ invites individuals to explore the products available in the world around them, to think critically, scientifically, and most importantly ask questions from which the inquiry process can begin.

Experiencing Inquiry Learning



Experiencing Inquiry Learning



A starting point for inquiry learning

Product inquiry

- Using products from everyday life offers a low-cost and relevant everyday starting point from which to begin the inquiry process.
- The additional benefit of this approach is that it can be adapted for the context specific to each individual country.

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A starting point for inquiry learning

Product inquiry

Things from every day life

Why is the copper cloth called „eco“?

Why is it made of copper?

What does scratchproof mean?

Which function does copper have?

Is the ecological copper cloth environmentally friendly?



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In front of you, you may find a product.

- 1. Are you familiar with this product?*
- 2. Explore the product! Write down all the questions that arose in your group during exploring!*
- 3. Find categories for classifying the questions, and classify them!*
- 4. Select one of your questions. Formulate assumptions to your question and plan an experiment to test the assumption!*

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- This workshop and the sample ‘product inquiry’ worksheets are designed to offer a taste of this experience, and the sort of questions and experiences generated from this type of activity.

Ecological Copper Cloth



Question 1: Is the ecological copper cloth environmentally friendly?

Assumption 1: The ecological copper cloth is not environmentally friendly because acids can attack it and lead to a release of copper ions. These are harmful for organisms.

Assumption 2: The cloth is environmentally friendly because copper is a noble metal which cannot be attacked by any other substance in the household.

Instructions for testing the assumptions

Fill 8 test tubes with equal amounts of different liquids used as household cleaning products (e.g. water, water with washing-up liquid, table vinegar, vinegar essence, spirit, ~~descaler~~, hydrochloric acid, bathroom cleaner). Now add same-size pieces of the copper cloth to each of the test tubes and seal them.

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A starting point for inquiry learning

- The worksheets and workshops were designed in order to allow the teacher to ‘experience’ the inquiry process.
- This type of experiential learning is invaluable when planning product inquiry within the context of one’s own country.

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Enjoy the lab session!