

Funny Taste



Approach: Team

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Selecting people to help and questions to ask them.

Resources: 12 small pictures of people (occupation labelled), 4 answer sheets.

Questions/instructions

Imagine that the town's water has a funny taste, and people are complaining about it. Also imagine that the town mayor has asked your team to investigate why the water has a funny taste.

Here is a set of pictures showing some of the people who work and live in the town. Look at the pictures and decide on **four** of these people who could give you the best help to solve the problem. You will need to think of reasons why they would be good people to help you with the investigation.

Discuss this together a team, and when you are ready I will ask you to tell me which people you choose, and why you chose those people. Here are the pictures. I'll read them to you.

Read picture captions and put pictures on table. Allow time.

Now tell me which four people you would choose to help you, and why you chose those people. All of you can help to tell me why you chose each person.

Remove 8 pictures, leaving the 4 chosen ones on the table.

Now I want each of you to choose **one** of these people, and to think about the questions you would ask them to help you solve the problem of funny tasting water. Choose one picture each now, then I'll explain what you do next.

Students select one picture each.

I am going to give each of you an answer sheet. Write the person you have chosen on the sheet. Try to write 3 questions that you would ask the person shown on your picture. They need to be useful questions that will help you to find out why the water tastes funny. When you've finished writing your questions, check them carefully to see that they are good questions.

Give students answer sheets. Allow time.

Now read your questions to the rest of the team. If you want, you can change or improve your questions if the team has some good ideas about them.

Chemist  I know about chemicals	Weather Forecaster  I tell what the weather might be like
Lawyer  I know about how the law works	Teacher  I help others to learn
Engineer  I build dams	Kaumatu  I am a leader, and I give people guidance
Microbiologist  I study bacteria and bugs	Doctor  I know why people get sick and help them to get better
Marine Biologist  I study sea water life	Farmer  I work with animals and crops
Householder  I use lots of water	
Medical Officer of Health  I help to make sure our community is a healthy place	

People chosen:	% responses	
	y4	y8
microbiologist	73	95
marine biologist	68	36
chemist	49	88
medical officer of health	49	61
householder	40	12
engineer	36	24
doctor	24	48
weather forecaster	14	2
teacher	7	1
kaumatua	6	2
lawyer	5	1
farmer	4	3
Process:		
all members contributed substantially	52	50
all ideas received constructively	65	81
decisions made by consensus	71	81
<i>Following results: averages across students</i>		
Appropriateness of:		
1st question	high	24 38
	moderate	27 44
	low	49 18
2nd question	high	17 39
	moderate	30 40
	low	53 21
3rd question	high	19 34
	moderate	20 37
	low	61 29
Number of distinct useful questions		
	3	16 40
	2	22 34
	1	31 16
	0	31 10
Amount of useful information likely to result:		
	high	13 38
	moderate	32 45
	low	55 17

Commentary

Year 8 students placed greatest reliance for help on the microbiologist, chemist, medical officer of health and doctor. Year 4 students included the marine biologist (described as focusing on sea water life) rather than the doctor. Year 4 students also often chose the householder. Most teams of students made their decisions constructively and by consensus, but only half involved substantial contributions from all team members. About 30 percent more year 8 than year 4 students developed questions appropriate to the person being asked, and likely to gain useful information.