
Questioning with Fascinating Facts

When students begin questioning what the text is about before actually reading it, they begin the “mind-reading” process, a key strategy for improving comprehension. In this activity, students anticipate what a reading assignment is about based on a given fascinating fact.

1. Select a passage for students to read. As you preview the text, search for an interesting fact or detail. Use this fact to capture students’ attention and generate interest around what students will be reading.
2. To model this activity for students, read aloud this fascinating fact:
Although cows graze up to eight hours a day, taking in about 100 pounds of feed and about a bathtub full of water, they have no upper front teeth.
3. Make a transparency of the **I Wonder . . . reproducible (page 19)**. Using the transparency template, ask students to create “I wonder” statements based on the fascinating fact. Write students’ ideas on the transparency. While student responses will vary, they might wonder:



How a cow chews its food

What a cow likes to eat

When a cow sleeps

Where a cow finds its food

Why a cow has no upper front teeth

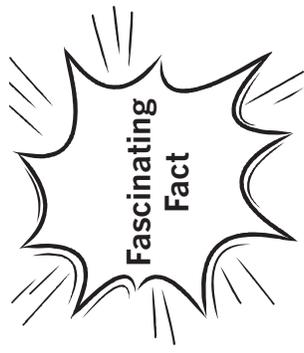
What would happen if a cow did have front teeth

What else is unusual about a cow

4. After students understand how to use a fascinating fact to generate “I wonder” statements, give each student a copy of the I Wonder . . . reproducible.
5. Write a fascinating fact on the board that you have chosen from a text selection. Have students copy it onto their reproducible. Then invite them to generate their own “I wonder” statements related to the fascinating fact.
6. Invite students to read the assigned text. Then have them complete the reproducible by recording information they discovered that answers their questions.

I Wonder . . .

Directions: Write the fascinating fact in the box. Complete the sentences in the left column with “I wonder” statements related to the fact. Then read the assigned text. Write what you found out in the right column.



I Wonder . . .	I Found Out
How	
What	
When	
Where	
Why	
What would happen if	
What else	