

Activity : Bloom's Taxonomy and the Jabberwocky activity

Aims

This is an activity to introduce participants to or remind them about the value of using Bloom's Taxonomy in devising effective questions for learners. It is designed to be a short sharp activity to set the context for exploring questioning techniques in more depth.

Objectives

- To understand the principles of Bloom's Taxonomy.
- To recognise the importance of using a wide range of effective questioning techniques to check learners' understanding.

Resources

PowerPoint presentation slides

Information sheet : Bloom's Taxonomy and task design.

Extract from Jabberwocky poem with questions 1-3 (for Stage 1 of activity)

Copy of all five questions (for Stage 2 of activity).

The activity.

Stage 1 of activity

- Each participant is given a copy of the extract from Jabberwocky with questions 1-3.

Participants are told the verse is a nonsense poem.

- In pairs they discuss and answer the questions on their sheet
- Whole group re-forms and volunteers provide answers to questions:
 - i. what were the slithy toves doing in the wabe?(Answer -gyring and gimbling.)
 - ii. how would you describe the state of the borogroves?(Answer - mimsy or all mimsy.)
 - iii. what can you say about the mome raths?(Answer - they outgrabe.)

- Give each participant a copy of questions 4 and 5.
- Put questions 4 and 5 to the whole group and ask
(The participants should be unable to answer the questions. Why? Because they do not understand the extract from the Jabberwocky poem - it is a nonsense poem. Really creative types may however offer some interesting suggestions.)

Stage 2 of activity

Ask the participants to work in pairs and identify questions 1-5 in relation to Bloom's taxonomy.

(This should reveal that questions 1 to 3 are all 'knowledge' and questions 4 and 5 are 'evaluation'.)

- Plenary discussion

Handout for Stage 1.

The Jabberwocky problem

**'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.**

Q1. What were the slithy toves doing in the wabe?

Q2. How would you describe the state of the borogoves?

Q3. What can you say about the mome raths?

Handout for Stage 2.

The Jabberwocky problem

Q1. What were the slithy toves doing in the wabe?

Q2. How would you describe the state of the borogroves?

Q3. What can you say about the mome raths?

Q4. Why were the borogroves whimsy?

Q5. How effective was the mome raths strategy?