

Spotting Question Words in Year 2 Non-Fiction

Key points

- Question words like who, what, where, when, why and how help children find specific facts in non-fiction texts such as information books.
- Using these words turns reading into a search for answers, making it easier for children to understand what they are looking for.
- In Year 2, children begin to use question words to plan their own simple research questions before writing reports or captions.
- Recognising these words helps children distinguish between stories and factual texts, supporting the National Curriculum's focus on non-fiction.
- Practising with everyday texts builds confidence in asking clear questions, which is a key skill for independent learning.

Things to try at home

- Pick an information book about an animal or place and ask your child to find the answer to one question word, such as 'Where does it live?'
- Play a 'Question Hunt' game where you read a short fact together and your child suggests which question word (who, what, where, when) matches it.
- When out walking or shopping, ask your child to think of one question they could ask to learn more about something they see, like 'What is this used for?'

Find out more

- Ask your child's Year 2 teacher for examples of non-fiction texts used in class to practise question words.
- Visit the GOV.UK website to read the National Curriculum guidance for English Key Stage 1.
- Check the Education Makes Sense website for free resources and worksheets on non-fiction reading and question words.