

Questions for critical thinking

You could use this **question bank** to support developing pupils' abilities to think critically and improve their own use of questions in geography investigations:

Focus on:	Questions for thinking:
What we are investigating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it useful to investigate this? Why? • What do we understand by this?
The key questions to ask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which questions do I need to ask? • Which other questions could I ask? • Which are questions are most useful? Which are most important?
The sources of evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is this information from? • Who produced it and why? • What is fact and what is opinion? • Is it fair? Is it biased? What has been left out? • What other evidence would be useful? Which other evidence should we see?
Thinking about reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What reasons are given? What reasons did we think of? • What arguments could I use? Which are the best arguments? • Are there any arguments against?
What different people think	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I think? What do other people think? • Who should have a say and why? • Why do people have different views on this?
Who makes the decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is making decisions about this? Which people or groups? • Is anyone left out of making decisions? Why? • Does anyone have most influence or power? • Who might gain and who might lose from the decisions or changes?
Making conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the conclusions make sense? • Do the conclusions match the evidence and the reasons? • Does what we know now link with any other examples or work we have done?

You could:

- display the question bank on pupils' tables, on wall displays or on your whiteboard
- ask individual pupils or groups to choose questions to focus on during or towards the end of their work, to help them think, evaluate and reflect
- select a few questions for everyone to focus on
- share questions around groups or individual pupils
- ask pupils to choose a question to reflect on in the plenary
- think of a few answers, then in your plenary ask pupils to find the questions to match them
- ask pupils to think of one or more of their own questions, perhaps one for each focus in the table above.

This question bank was developed by the Geographical Association for the Global Learning Programme based on Margaret Roberts' article 'Critical Thinking and Global Learning' in [Teaching Geography](#).