

## **Activity: Observing questioning in action**

As you observe geography lessons, watch carefully how the teacher uses questions and how students respond. Pay particular attention to:

### **Kinds of Questions**

- Does the teacher ask questions that use geographical vocabulary?
- Do they ask questions to build on previous learning?
- Do they ask question to check and assess understanding?
- Do they ask both *product* and *process* questions?
- Does the teacher use
  - centering questions (to refocus students' attention),
  - probing questions (to require students to go beyond a superficial or incomplete answer),
  - redirecting questions (to ask for clarification or agreement from others)?
- Does the teacher ask closed questions, which generally have a 'right' answer and require students to recall or list facts?
- Do they ask open questions?
- Does the teacher encourage students to answer difficult questions by providing cues or rephrasing without giving the answer?
- Does the teacher encourage students to ask their own questions?

### **Responses by the teacher**

- Does the teacher demonstrate active listening skills e.g. by maintaining eye contact and not interrupting a student?
- Do questions follow a logical sequence or pattern for developing an understanding of a concept?
- How does the teacher use a student response to a question?
- Do they ask follow up questions?
- Do they ask for clarification of a student's answer?
- What do they do if the answer is wrong – or partially correct?
- Do they call on other students to support?
- Does the teacher use verbal reinforcement? OR is there a non-verbal response (smile, nod)?
- Is the teacher receptive to student suggestions or viewpoints contrary to his or her own?
- What does the teacher do with student questions? Are they answered in a direct and understandable manner?
- Are questions received politely or enthusiastically?

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