Research Steps: Grades K-2

A guide for teachers

Step 1: WONDER

Researchers wonder about a topic and think about what they already know.
- Lead a discussion about *why* student(s) chose a topic.
- Use a KWL chart to record what they **Know** about the topic.
- Model activating prior knowledge.

Researchers ask questions about a topic to focus their search for information.
- Using a KWL chart, lead student(s) to generate a list of questions: what do *they* **Want to know?**
- Assist student(s) in crafting their own questions about a topic, honoring their inquiry.

Step 2: FIND

Researchers use sources to find good information.
- Model using a variety of sources and formats to find answers.
- Read aloud multiple nonfiction books, magazines, online encyclopedias on a single topic.
- Allow students to explore graphs, maps, and photographs.
- Model and direct students to use text features to guide their search: table of contents, index, glossary, captions, graphs, etc.
- Model or direct students to keep track of sources by writing down the title and author of the source. Write down URLs (addresses) of web sites.

Researchers take notes in their own words.
- Model taking notes in bullet form.
- Do not copy the sentences from the book. (Explain: that's plagiarism!)
- Make sure notes answer research questions. Use a graphic organizer, arrows, etc to show which facts answer which questions.

Step 3: SHARE

Researchers share what they learned.
- Put facts together into a presentation. Students could create illustrations, write simple guide books or brochures, or generate a group poem/song incorporating information.

Researchers reflect - they evaluate their own work.
- Gather feedback: what was tricky? what went well? what should we practice next time?

Need help teaching or planning any of the research steps?
Talk to your school librarian! We are ready to help with resources, handouts, and expertise.