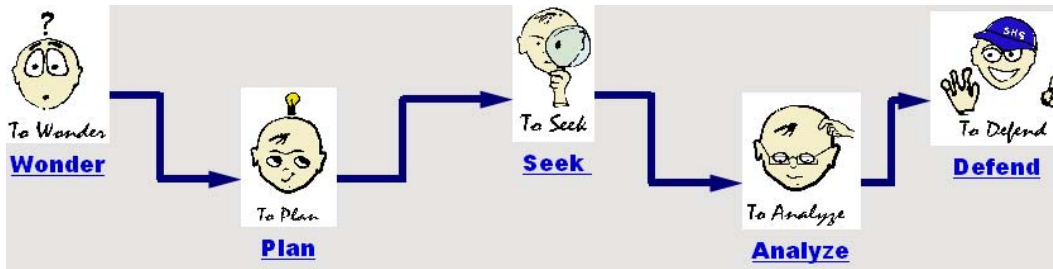


A Fresh Approach to Teaching Inquiry - The Sterling Hall School

Our grade 3-5 Inquiry program, SHARK Inquiry (Sterling Hall Action Research Kids), is a full year program, offered once per cycle. The students work in pairs or individually to research a question that they are interested in, such as how Global Warming affects polar bears. It is an effort to promote critical thinking, independent learning, passion, and good habits of mind.

Five Step Process



Wonder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on topic Ask “big” questions about the topic Formulate a hypothesis
Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on what sources would be useful Think about timelines
Seek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine and collect data from a number of sources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -secondary sources - books, web, newspapers -primary sources – experts, experiment, peers
Analyze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize patterns or irregularities in data Make conclusions and recommendations
Defend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a decision about the validity of the hypothesis By some means, electronic or otherwise, present a defense

Features of our Inquiry Program

- Based in the software program, Inspiration™
- Low student-teacher ratio (6-1)
- Integration with Technology, Science, Language Arts, Math
- Nimble – in the sense that the model can be used in other curriculum areas, and in the fact that we can tweak the program based on feedback and observation

More info: <http://www.theibsc.org/page.cfm?p=1269> username and password is *sterlinghall*, Contact Marco Zimbalatti mzimbalatti@sterlinghall.com