
I Notice, I Wonder (Forget the Question)

Taking time to notice and wonder and focus on understanding before focusing on solving gives students a place to begin when they are stuck or are not confident in their problem-solving ability. Here are some suggestions for this activity:

If the problem is a story:

Step 1: Announce to the students, "I'm going to read you a story."

Step 2: Using a scenario only (do not include any ending question), read the context of the problem to the students.

Step 3: Ask, "What did you hear?"

If the problem is visual (a picture or a diagram):

Step 1: Display for class viewing or distribute copies to pairs or groups of students.

Step 2: Ask, "What do you notice?"

Students' responses might be

- ▶ oral
- ▶ individually written
- ▶ discussed as pairs or groups with one scribe
- ▶ discussed as a class with the teacher or a scribe recording on chart paper or the board.

Once "I Notice" has been covered, ask students, "What do you wonder?" The responses may be the very question that was originally included on the problem!

Name: _____

I Notice, I Wonder (Forget the Question)

I notice ...	I wonder ...