



How to Model Specific Questions

1. Set a Purpose for Learning



Now that I've described the question writing strategy and the question type, I will show you how to use it. Look at your passage, called "What are clouds?" I will read this aloud and stop where it says I should write a question. I'll use the cue card and our classroom poster to help me. Follow along and watch as I show you how to do this.

2. Read the First Chunk of Text Aloud to the Class

What Are Clouds?

By NASA, 2014

Spotting a cloud floating overhead is a common sight on our planet, but what are clouds made of? Why do they look like they do? This informational text explains the formation of different clouds and how they contribute to different types of weather on Earth. As you read, take notes on how clouds can affect weather.

- [1] A cloud is made of water drops or ice crystals floating in the sky. There are many kinds of clouds. Clouds are an important part of Earth's weather.

How Do Clouds Form?

- [2] The sky can be full of water. But most of the time you can't see the water. The drops of water are too small to see. They have turned into a gas called water vapor. As the water vapor goes higher in the sky, the air gets cooler. The cooler air causes the water droplets to start to stick to things like bits of dust, ice, or sea salt.

(Adapted from www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/what-are-clouds-k4.html)

3. Stop and Model How to Write a Specific Question While Thinking Aloud

Remember that I will write a specific question—one that can be answered in one word or one sentence, and I can put my finger on the answer in the text word for word.

- First, I will locate a fact that tells who, what, when, where, why, or how information. I could ask "How do clouds form?" because that's the heading for this section, but I will come up with another question. I remember that the paragraph talks about how the sky is full of water, but you cannot see the water drops because they are in the form of a gas. This gas is called water vapor.
- Next, I'll turn this fact into a question. Because this provides a reason why we can't see rain in the sky most of the time, I will ask a "why" question: Why are drops of water usually too small to see in the sky?
- Then I'll check to be sure the answer is in one place OR one sentence. Yes, it is!
- Last, I'll write question and answer on the log.



| Question | Answer | Text Evidence |
|---|--|---------------|
| Why are drops of water usually too small to see in the sky? | Drops of water are too small to see because they turned into a gas called water vapor. | Paragraph 2 |