

## Section 2: Developing writing

### Activity 5: Questioning

#### Objective

To reflect independently and critically on their own writing and edit and improve it.  
(Year 5 Strand 9)

#### What's on the CD-ROM

##### How it works

- Text extract to read and discuss.

#### What to do

Explanations answer questions. Creating the connections required for explanations involves devising good questions, which is what this activity focuses on.

- Hand out photocopiable page 29 'Questioning' and look at the phenomena described on the left-hand side. Point out the fact that some things will happen before and after each of these things and be connected to them.
- Ask the children to think of two questions they would like to ask about each fact. For example, for 'The Sun rises in the morning', the children might ask *Where does it come from?* or *Why does it rise?* Tell the children that they need to complete the photocopiable sheet, devising two questions about each fact. (You could refer the children to Extract 1 'How it works' for the final box.)
- When they have completed the sheet, organise the children into groups of four to six. In their groups, ask the children to decide which fact has provoked the most different questions. Ask them to write this fact on a large sheet of paper and write their questions around it. Discuss what explanations might answer these questions.

### Activity 6: Planning and discussing

#### Objective

To set their own challenges to extend achievement and experience in writing.  
(Year 6 Strand 9)

#### What's on the CD-ROM

##### Planning and discussing

- Choose an image from 'These images'.
- Type notes to describe the process.

#### What to do

To explain a process, children need to muster some of the thoughts they have about them. This activity picks up on processes into which they should have some insights.

- Open 'Planning and discussing' from the CD-ROM and choose a process from 'These images'.
- Working in groups of three, ask the children what they can explain about the process. They do not need to do this step by step, they just need to come up with parts of the process.
- Ask the children to select a different process from 'These images' and, in a shared or guided session, draft some notes on the board.
- Once they have made notes on the screen, ask each group to cut out the question cards from a copy of photocopiable page 30, shuffle them and lay them out face down. In turn, they should pick up a card, then give a short, oral explanation. The other members of the group can help them along, but they need to try and explain the stages of the process and how they connect together.
- Once each member of the group has completed two explanations, they can choose one they would like to write as a short text.