Questions That Encourage Inquiry*

To encourage careful observing:
- What do you see?
- What do you notice?
- What else do you see?
- How is it changing?
- If you look at this part, what do you see?

To encourage prediction:
- What do you think will happen when . . . ?
- Is there anything else that might happen?
- Why do you think that will happen?
- What is the reason behind your prediction?
- Tell me more.

To encourage investigations:
- What will you do to find out?
- What will you do next?

To encourage explanation:
- What happened?
- How do you explain that?
- Why do you think that happens?
- Why is that?
- What is going on?
- Could you say more?

To encourage learners to support their explanations with evidence:
- How do you know?
- What evidence do you have?
- Can you prove that?
- Can you show me?

* Copyright © 2000 by Lesley University (Cambridge, MA) and TERC, Inc. (Cambridge, MA)
Permission for use of these materials is granted, for use in the classroom, to any teacher. Educators who wish to copy and/or duplicate these materials must ensure that Lesley University and TERC, Inc., are properly credited, and the original copyright notice is included. This is not for commercial use.