Questions about Life
(ref. Religion for Living - Second Edition pages 332 - 335)

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Key Concepts ........................................................ page 3

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Web Links - click on these links:

1. Sometimes.  (Video 2:58min)
   A list of some ultimate questions.
   Can this sort of questioning lead people to become religious?
   From ThankGod4RE

2. Big Questions Matter.  (Video 3:24min)
   The Question Project. Insights from one school in the South Bronx N.Y.
   For teachers and students.
   From OpenFutureInstitute.org

3. Better Questions.  (Webpage)
   Inquiry based learning. Help students become better questioners. Something for the teacher.
   From EduTopia.org

4. A meaningful life.  (Powerpoint)
   Questions for reflection, based on “life is a journey” theme.
   From SlideShare.net
Questions about Life

Be able to show that human beings tend to ask questions about the meaning of life.
**Question** is a **key concept** in this lesson.

- Fill in the word square to show what it means.

1. Write the **definition** of the concept.

2. Write a **sentence** about the concept in your own words.

3. Make a **list of words** connected to the concept.

4. Draw a **picture** to illustrate the concept. Label it.
**Questioner** is a **key concept** in this lesson.

> Fill in the word square to show what it means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Write the <strong>definition</strong> of the concept.</th>
<th>2. Write a <strong>sentence</strong> about the concept in your own words.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make a <strong>list of words</strong> connected to the concept.</td>
<td>Draw a <strong>picture</strong> to illustrate the concept. Label it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Knowledge Questions

1. What is one of the main differences between human beings and other creatures?

2. List some common questions that people ask about life.

3. When you think deeply about life what sort of questions do you ask?
   Make a list: ______________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________

4. What is the difference in the way children and adults ask questions about life?

5. Give examples of questions of meaning asked by:
   a. Children. _____________________________________________
   b. Teenagers. ___________________________________________
   c. Adults. ______________________________________________

6. What questions of meaning are expressed in teenage music, film, T.V. programmes, books and magazines?

7. What kind of experiences may prompt people to ask questions about the meaning of life? ____________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
Understanding Questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statement “asking questions is an essential human characteristic”? Give reasons for your answer.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do human beings ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What are the similarities and differences in the questions people ask at various stages in their lives?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. How could music, for example, shed meaning on our lives?

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________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
1. Survey.

Questions we ask: this is a list of questions that teenagers ask from time to time.

- How often do you ask such questions? Indicate by ticking (✓) the appropriate column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What time is it?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What homework do we have?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What’s the right thing to do?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How much is it?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What happens when we die?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Can I have some money?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. What’s life all about anyway?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Should I do Transition Year?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Who cares about me?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Why do I have to go to school?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. What will I wear?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Why do people suffer?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Who won the match?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Will I get a job?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Are we there yet?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Underline the questions you think are the most puzzling and difficult to answer.

(ii) What do you think are the two most important questions to try and answer? Give reasons for your choice.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

(iii) Why do people ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
(iv) When you think deeply about life what questions do you ask?

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

2. Sentence completion.

Identify two questions of meaning that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children might ask…</th>
<th>Teenagers might ask…</th>
<th>Adults might ask…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do our questions about life change in any way as we get older?

_______________________________________________________________


(i) In the table below name a film, a book, a song and a TV programme that explores a fundamental question about the meaning of life.

(ii) What question is dealt with in this particular film, book, song and TV programme.

(iii) How is the issue explored in each case?

(i) **Film:** __________________________________________

(ii) __________________________________________

(iii) __________________________________________

(i) **Book:** __________________________________________

(ii) __________________________________________

(iii) __________________________________________

(i) **Music:** __________________________________________

(ii) __________________________________________

(iii) __________________________________________

(i) **T.V.:** __________________________________________

(ii) __________________________________________

(iii) __________________________________________
1. Gridwork.
This is a list of questions teenagers ask from time to time.

a. Show the difference between:

(✓) Small ordinary questions. **AND**
(✓) Big important questions about the meaning of life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Small questions.</th>
<th>Big questions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What time is it?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What homework do we have?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What’s the right thing to do?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How much is it?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What happens when we die?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. What will I wear?</td>
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<td>□</td>
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<td>10. Why do people suffer?</td>
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<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Are we there yet?</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. **Circle** the questions that are difficult to answer.

c. What is the most important question to try and answer? Give a reason.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
2. **Examples.**  
Give an example of the **big questions** children, teenagers, parents and retired people might ask about life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Teenagers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Retired people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Questions I ask.**  
Write down the questions you ask about life from time to time.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

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__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________