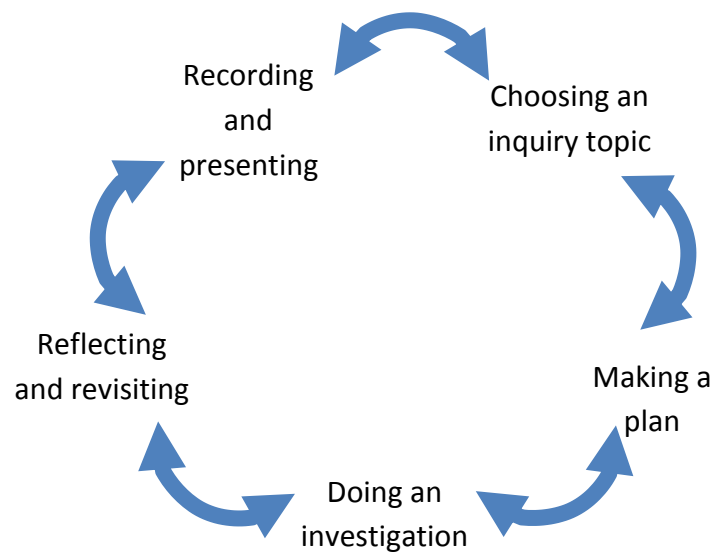


## What does inquiry mean?

Inquiry by definition is an act of seeking information by questioning. It is synonymous with study and exploration and investigation. In the real world we ask questions and find answers daily. For example, before we buy a car we research multiple sources of information and look at various criteria before we make our choice. Some of us even create spreadsheets noting differences between various models.

## Purpose

Within each elementary grade level, students participate in an inquiry unit. This is meant to give students an opportunity to independently transfer and apply the skills and strategies they've learned over the course of the year with finding, reading, analyzing, and evaluating non-fiction. Even in Kindergarten, students practice asking and researching a question as a class. By 5<sup>th</sup> grade students can be self-directed in their own learning with:



## Types of Inquiry

Type	Mini-inquiry	Curricular Inquiry	Literature Circle Inquiry	Open Inquiry
Definition	Short term research that lets students search and find information quickly	Research that furthers understanding in a curricular content.	Using literature to understand ourselves and the world around us better.	Students create and choose a topic to research and understand better.
Example	What causes tornadoes?	What can we do to avoid getting sick? (science: human body)	What makes a good friend?	How can we get find alternative fuels?