

## Types of Questions:

Literal, Inferential and Evaluative/  
Application



**Literal:** Questions for which the answer can be found directly in the text. In other words, the answer is "right there."



Examples:

When did World War I start?

What is the definition of an atom?

**Inferential:** Questions for which the reader needs to use the text and prior knowledge. In other words, the reader uses **the book and the brain**.



Examples:



Which of Edison's characteristics allowed him to successfully create the light bulb?

What caused the plant to die in Experiment A?

Evaluative/Application: Question that asks the reader to take the knowledge learned and apply to a wholly different scenario.



Example:

Using the scientific method, plan an experiment that answers the question "Which M & M do people like best?"

"Grizzly bears are found in western Canada and in Alaska, living in forests on mountain sides. They have shaggy fur, humped shoulders, sharp teeth and long, sharp claws. Grizzlies usually live alone. Each bear has its own area of land called a *home range*. It leaves scents on the bark of trees all the way around its home range to let other bears know where it lives."

For each question determine if it is literal, inferential or evaluative/application. Then answer the question if you can.

1. Where do grizzlies live?
2. Describe a grizzly bear.
3. Would you find a grizzly bear in Michigan?
4. Why is a grizzly bear dangerous to people?
5. What does a grizzly bear eat?

Read the selection "Students Turn Food into Non-perishable Powder" Determine if each question is literal, inferential, or evaluative/application. Then answer the questions if you can.

1. How much food do we waste?
2. Why did the students at Lund University come up with the idea of non-perishable food powder?
3. Why did the students call it FoPo Food Powder?
4. When was this process first developed?
5. How long does the powder last before it spoils?
6. What world problem does FoPo solve?
7. Would you like the calamansi powder?
8. How do people feel about being given FoPo?

Read the selection "Students Turn Food into Non-perishable Powder" Determine if each question is literal, inferential, or evaluative/application. Then answer the questions if you can.

1. How much food do we waste? *literal : a third of what we produce*
2. Why did the students at Lund University come up with the idea of non-perishable food powder? *literal : the students didn't like the amount of waste and wanted to help people that didn't have food resources.*
3. Why did the students call it FoPo Food Powder? *inferential : Fo comes from the word food; Po comes from the word powder.*
4. When was this process first developed? *literal : astronauts used powdered food. Inferential : in the 60's and 70's.*
5. How long does the powder last before it spoils? *literal : two years*
6. What world problem does FoPo solve? *literal : starving nations*
7. Would you like the calamansi powder? *evaluative*
8. How do people feel about being given FoPo? *application*

