

The Importance of Being...Curious

***The important thing is not to stop questioning... Never lose a holy curiosity.
Albert Einstein***

Intellectual curiosity is so important! We see that most clearly in how it manifests itself in geniuses. Intellectual giant are always curious persons. For example, Thomas Edison, Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman are all curious characters. Richard Feynman was especially known for his adventures which came from his curiosity.

Curiosity is not only important for those with high IQs. Successful students (and people who are successful after college) often display a good measure of intellectual curiosity.

But why is curiosity so important? Here are four reasons:

1. It makes your mind active instead of passive

Curious people always ask questions and search for answers. Their minds are always active. Since the mind is like a muscle which becomes stronger through continual exercise, the mental exercise caused by curiosity makes your mind stronger and stronger.

2. It makes your mind observant of new ideas

When you are curious about something, your mind expects and anticipates new ideas related to the subject. When the ideas come you will recognize them. Without curiosity, the ideas may pass right in front of you and yet you miss them because your mind is not prepared to recognize them. Just think, how many great ideas may have been lost due to lack of curiosity?

3. It opens up new worlds and possibilities

By being curious you will be able to see new worlds and possibilities that are normally not visible. They are hidden behind the surface of normal life, and it takes a curious mind to look beneath the surface and discover these new worlds and possibilities.

4. It brings excitement into your life

The lives of curious people are far from boring. They are neither dull nor routine. There are always new things that attract the curious person's attention, there are always new 'toys' to play with. Instead of being bored, curious people have an adventurous life.

Now, knowing the importance of curiosity, here are some tips to develop it:

1. Keep an open mind

This is essential if you are to have a curious mind. Be open to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Some things you know and believe might be wrong, and you should be prepared to accept this possibility and change your mind.

2. Don't take things at face value.

If you just accept the world as it is without trying to dig deeper, you will certainly lose the 'holy curiosity'. Never take things at face value. Try to dig deeper beneath the surface of what is around you.

3. Ask questions relentlessly

A sure way to dig deeper beneath the surface is asking questions: *What* is that? *Why* is it made that way? *When* was it made? *Who* invented it? *Where* does it come from? *How* does it work? *What, why, when, who, where, and how* are the best friends of curious people.

4. Don't label something as boring

Whenever you label something as boring, you close one more door of possibilities. Curious people are unlikely to call something boring. Instead, they always see it as a door to an exciting new world. Even if they don't yet have time to explore it, they will leave the door open to be visited another time.

5. See learning as something fun

If you see learning as a burden, there's no way you will want to dig deeper into anything. That will just make the burden heavier. But if you think of learning as something fun, you will naturally *want* to dig deeper. So look at life through the glasses of fun and excitement and enjoy the learning process.

6. Have diversity in your reading

Don't spend too much time in just one world; take a look at other worlds. It will introduce you to the possibilities and excitement of the other worlds which may spark your interest to explore them further. One easy way to do this is through reading diverse genres and topics. Try to pick a book or magazine on a new subject and let it feed your mind with the excitement of a new world.

Adapted from *Four Reasons Why Curiosity Is Important and How to Develop It*, by Donald Latumahina, <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/4-reasons-why-curiosity-is-important-and-how-to-develop-it.html>

["Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death"](#)

~ [Albert Einstein](#)

["Judge a man \[sic\] by his questions rather than by his answers"](#)

~ [Voltaire](#)

["Curiosity is the very basis of education and if you tell me that curiosity killed the cat, I say only the cat died nobly."](#)

 [MonaR119](#)

~ [Arnold Edinborough](#)

["When you're curious, you find lots of interesting things to do."](#)

~ [Walt Disney](#)

["We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."](#)

~ [Walt Disney](#)

["Curiosity is as much the parent of attention, as attention is of memory."](#)

~ [Richard Whately](#)

From bookstatistics.com:

- 58% of the US adult population never reads another book after high school.
- 42% of college graduates never read another book.
- 80% of US families did not buy or read a book last year.
- 70% of US adults have not been in a bookstore in the last five years.