

Research — The Research Cycle

Aim: To explain the steps involved in doing research.

How to:

Research is when we answer a question about something — there are **6 main steps**:



- ✔ Show an overview of all steps — you could do this by showing our image, using multisensory items (e.g. an object or song to represent each step) or movement (e.g. actions or themed spaces in a room for each step).

Step 1 — Pick a topic

Pick a topic that the group would like to find out more about (this could be related to your research, or something light-hearted like 'biscuits'). You can discuss ideas, give the group options to pick from or decide the topic in advance.

Step 2 — See what is known already

- ✔ Ask the group what they know about the topic already.
- ✔ Search the topic on the internet/bring sources for the group to look at (books, videos, easy-read summaries etc).
- ✔ Hide facts about the topic around the room — ask the group to 'hunt the facts', and then discuss them as a group.

Step 3 — Set a question

Based on what we have learned, what question would we like to answer today? E.g what is your favourite biscuit?

Write the question somewhere visible.



Step 4 – Collect evidence

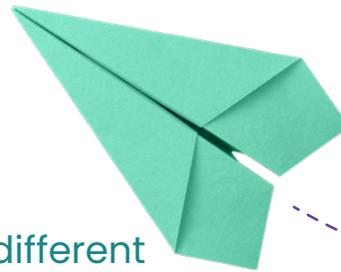
Collect evidence in different ways. E.g. using the example of biscuits, groups could:

- 👤 Do a taste test of biscuits and give them a rating.
- ✍️ Draw their favourite biscuit and why it's their favourite.
- ✔️ Put a tick next to a picture of their favourite biscuit from a list of options.
- ❓ Ask someone else what their favourite biscuit is and write it down/draw it.

Step 5 – What have we found out?

Look at what the group have learned, depending on the activities in step 4. **You could:**

- ✔️ count votes
- ✔️ look at artwork
- ✔️ discuss experiences
- ✔️ look at what other people said
- ✔️ group the data into themes, e.g. different reasons why a biscuit is someone's favourite



Step 6 – Share what we have learned

Explain that now we need to share what we have learned. **You could:**

- ✔️ Create a poster/write a story/write a poem or song to share what the group found out.
- ✔️ Pass the main message of the top biscuit around the circle.
- ✔️ Put your findings on a paper aeroplane, and practice flying them to new people around the room.

At the end explain that this is research – research is about answering a question and today we found out more about **your topic**. But it can be about anything.

Extension:

Share examples of different types of research, or the research that has led to your specific project, breaking it down into each step.