

*He is educated who knows how
to find out what he doesn't
know.*

-- Georg Simmel, German philosopher





Information problem-solving model
helps you find, use, apply, and
evaluate information you need.

The Big 6 ... What is it?

- The most well-known and used approach to teaching information and technology skills in the world.
- A process that integrates information literacy (search and use skills) with technology.

developed by Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz

The Big 6 ... Why use it

- To save valuable time
- To work smarter—be more effective

The Big 6 ... How to use it

The six steps

1. Task Definition
2. Information Seeking Strategies
3. Location and Access
4. Use of Information
5. Synthesis
6. Evaluation

T I L U S E

1. Task Definition

- Define the information problem.
 - Focus
 - What is the problem?
 - What am I supposed to do?
 - By when? (When is it due?)
- Identify the information you need to complete the task.
 - What information do I need in order to do this?

1. Task Definition (Example)

- First, what is my task, or assignment; for example, ...
 - My assignment is to do an oral presentation about a character from Greek Mythology.
 - I choose to do a PowerPoint presentation about Poseidon.



1. Task Definition (Example cont.)

- Second, determine what kind of information I need
- What are some potential questions I might ask about Poseidon.
 - Who was Poseidon?
 - Who were his parents & siblings?
 - Where did he live?
 - What did he do?
 - Did he have any unique characteristics?



2. Information Seeking Strategies

- What is my search plan?
- How do I find the answers I need?
- Determine all possible sources of information (brainstorm)
- Evaluate those sources and select the best ones for my needs
 - What are the possible sources?
 - Which are the best?

2. Information Seeking Strategies (Example)

➤ Where can I find information about Poseidon?

- Teacher
- Librarian (& library website)
- Textbook
- Internet
- Electronic Databases
- Books
- Magazines/Periodicals



2. Information Seeking Strategies (Example)

➤ Which of these sources are my best options to find information on Poseidon?

- Use books, electronic databases and some Internet sites for historical topics.
- Use magazines, periodicals, and some Internet sites for current events.



3. Location and Access

- Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
- Sort through my sources of information to find out what I've got
- Find information within sources
 - Where is each source?
 - Where is the information I'm looking for in each source?

3. Location and Access (Example)

➤ Where can I find the sources I have identified?

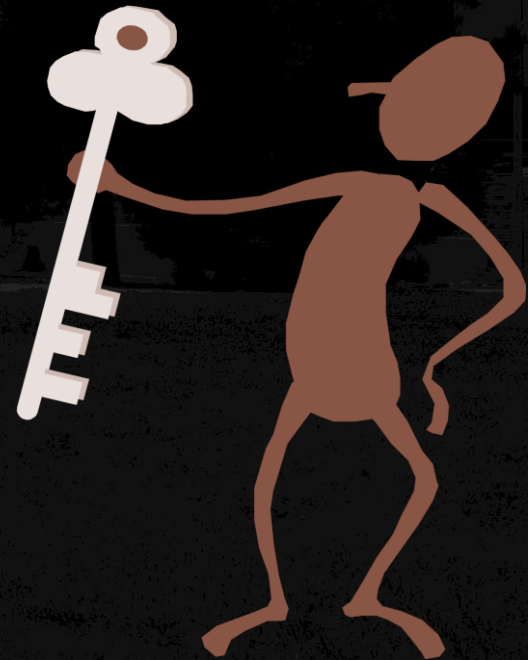
- School Library
- Public Library
- Personal Library
- Classroom Resources
- Computers/Internet
- Smartphones



3. Location and Access (Example)

➤ If I use the Internet, a database or library catalog, what are the best keyword searches for me to use?

- Poseidon
- Greek Mythology
- Mythology, Greek



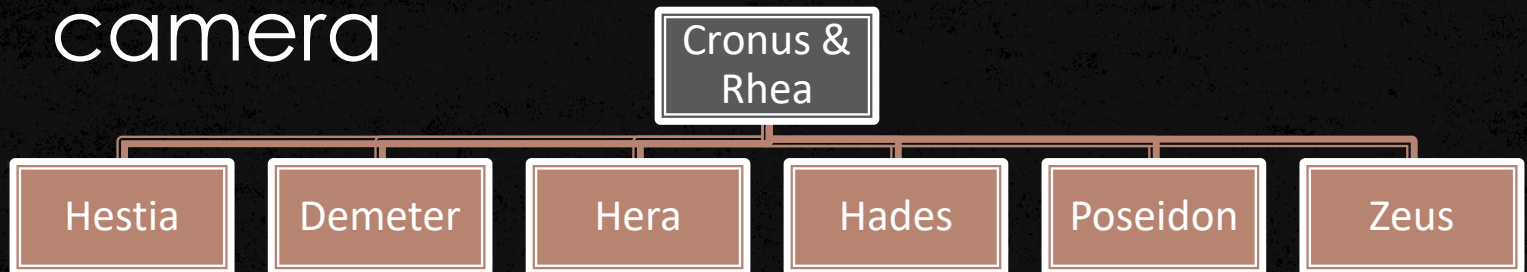
4. Use of Information

- Engage (read, hear, view, touch) with the information in a source
- Select best sources
- Determine what information is important. Filter out the garbage.
- Extract relevant information from your sources and ask ...
 - How to best use each source?

4. Use of Information (Example)

➤ Now what am I going to do with the information?

- Take notes on note cards
- Take notes on notebook paper
- Take notes using a word processor or other digital device
- Take notes using a graphic organizer
- Use a recorder, video or digital camera



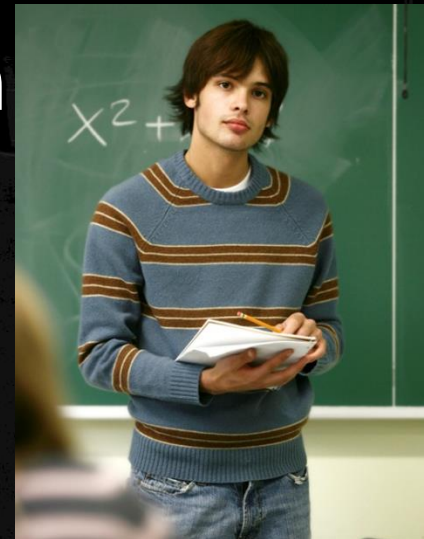
5. Synthesis

- Organize information from multiple sources. Pull together the key information that answers your research question(s).
- Product (present/publish your findings)
 - How can I organize all the information?
 - How can I present the results?
 - Who is my audience?

5. Synthesis (Example)

➤ Now I have the information, how will I present the final results?

- Written Paper
- Oral Presentation with Visual Aids (Posters, Models, Costumes, etc.)
- Multimedia Presentation (PowerPoint, Google Slides)
- Performance



6. Evaluation

- Judge* the product for effectiveness
- Why is this product important? (Answer the “so what?” question)
- What have I learned?
- Judge the information problem-solving process for efficiency
 - Is the task completed?
 - How can I improve the product?

*Judge: assess, measure, grade, critique

6. Evaluation (Example)

- Before submitting my final project I evaluate it to make sure it meets all the requirements.
 - Does it match the task I defined in Big6 #1?
 - Does the information I found in Big6 #4 match the information I said I needed in Big6 #1?
 - Did I cite my sources?
 - Is my work neat?
 - Is my work complete?
 - Am I proud of my work?



Big6 Resources

- <http://www.big6.com>
- <https://thebig6.org/articles-2>
- <https://www.basdk12.org/userfiles/804/my%20files/the%20steps%20of%20the%20big6%20research%20skills.pdf?id=1862>

Bibliography

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