

# Butler Wash Cliff Dwellings

ideas  
worth  
sharing

**Overview:** The "Question Starts" routine provides students with the opportunity to practice developing good questions that provoke thinking and inquiry into a topic. It also helps students brainstorm lots of different kinds of questions about a topic. As a bell ringer it grounds the class in the lesson or topic through inquiry.

**Student Activity:** Display the image to the class or print out a hard copy. Including the following background information will support students' thinking in this routine:

*"Butler Wash Ruins are cliff dwellings that were built and occupied by the ancestral Pueblo about 1200 CE. The structures here represent the full range of ancestral Pueblo daily activities: habitation, farming, ceremonial, hunting, storage, and tool making. Whether due to drought, overpopulation, eroding resources, or warring neighbors, the village was abandoned before 1300 CE."*

1. In groups of 2-3, brainstorm a list of 8-12 questions about the image. Use these question starts to help you think of interesting questions:

Why...?

What are the reasons...?

What if...?

What is the purpose of...?

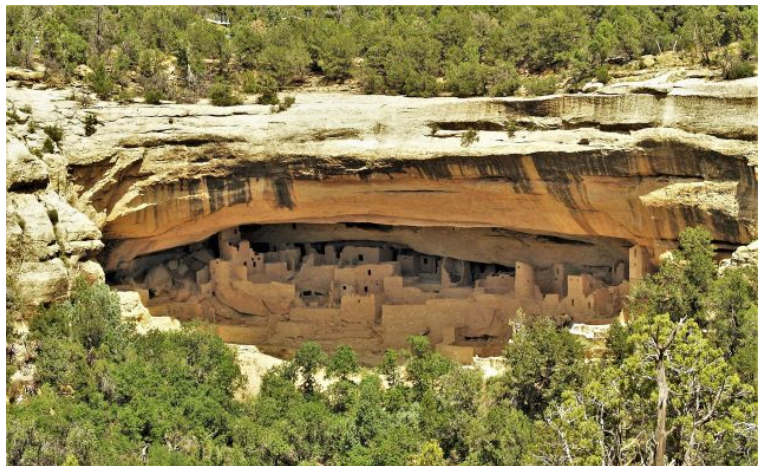
How would it be different if...?

Suppose that...?

What if we knew...?

What would change if...?

2. As a group, review your list and star 2-3 questions that seem most interesting. Then, select one or more of the starred questions to discuss with the class.



*Photo Credit: Cynthia Mccrary/Dreamstime.com*

3. Reflect: What new ideas or questions do you have about the topic, concept, or object that you didn't have before?

**Suggested Scaffolds:**

- Provide a sample or model the question process.
- Annotate the image.
- Ask students to generate a fewer number of questions.

**Connecting History to the Present:** Ask students to describe their perfect community and categorize their descriptions. Ask them for one thing they would want to improve in their community and how that could be achieved.