

## Save the World by Asking Questions

*An activity of "Vietnam bans wildlife trade"*

1. Read **"Vietnam bans wildlife trade"** (page 9, *What's Up* August 2020).
2. Imagine this scenario: local farmers have reported a curious observation — squirrels have been spotted sneezing constantly, in and around their farmlands. Researchers worry that this may be a sign of a new virus.

Now, imagine that you are part of your school science club. A zoonosis researcher has invited your club to help out in investigating this problem.

Your task is to learn more about the situation, then assess whether these sneezing squirrels pose any major risks to public health. In order to do that, you will need to ask questions to different groups of people.

3. In pairs, prepare a list of questions that you and your team will ask each of these groups.

**Two questions for the farmers  
who reported the issue**

**Two questions for wildlife experts  
who study squirrels**

**Two questions for scientists  
who study disease in humans**

**Two questions for scientists  
who study disease in animals**

4. Discuss with your partner how your thoughtful questions might help to solve mysteries such as that of the sneezing squirrels. In what ways can asking good questions help us save the world from future epidemics?