



# CURIOSITY

VIA Survey calls this strength Curiosity

**Parent virtue: Wisdom and Knowledge.** Strengths of wisdom and knowledge are cognitive strengths related to the acquisition and use of information. Strengths comprised in this virtue are creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning and perspective.



## WHAT DOES CURIOSITY MEAN?

***You like exploration and discovery. You ask lots of questions because you want to learn more about anything and everything.***

Curiosity is a crucial component of one's character. Our innate urge for discovery and exploration is a key element of our human desire for wisdom and knowledge. It's what keeps us intrigued in the plotlines of movies and books. It's what pushes us to try new activities or travel to different places. All individuals experience curiosity, but differ in their willingness to experience it – behaviorally, intellectually, and emotionally.

Curiosity is associated with novelty-seeking. Novelty-seekers are more willing to endure risks – such as physical risks of skydiving or social risks of meeting new people – in order to gain the benefits of new experiences. Curiosity is also associated with being receptive to exploring new ideas, feelings, or values – which carry their own inherent risks and rewards.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Individuals with the character strength of curiosity are more likely to ask questions and try new things. Curiosity then is a form of courage. Asking questions exposes the fact that we don't know and trying a new activity means we might fail. But, it's only through asking questions and exploring new opportunities that we learn and grow. However, curiosity can be detrimental to our health, if it's associated with illegal substance use or other risky behavior.

On a group level, curiosity is crucial in making discoveries that bring important benefits. For example, exotic plants may yield new medicines and ancient artifacts may illuminate astonishing pieces of human history. Curiosity is what compels astronauts into outer space and submarines to the bottom of the ocean. It is hardwired into the human genome and a defining element of human success.

### ***Individuals with this strength might be described as:***

- Interested
- Inquiring
- Investigative
- Exploratory
- Probing
- Adventurous

### ***Individuals with this strength are likely to think, feel, or behave in the following ways:***

- Asking lots of questions is a good thing. It helps us learn.
- Exploration – whether physical, mental, or emotional – is how humanity grows and evolves.
- I get excited when I travel to a new place, try an exotic food, or experience a new sensation.
- When I go home from school or work, I like to discover new routes.
- I'm always curious to see if my expectations match with the new reality that I have discovered.
- I despise monotony and boredom.

## QUOTES ON CURIOSITY

*"There is always a place I can take someone's curiosity. That's my challenge as an educator. No one is dumb who is curious. The people who don't ask questions remain clueless throughout their lives."*

**-NEIL deGRASSE TYSON**

*"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 the one thing invincible in nature."*

**-FREYA STARK**

*"Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas."*

**-MARIE CURIE**