
Question: **What's a MOLE?**

Answer: a **M**etacognitively-**O**riented
Learning **E**nvironment

Enquiry: **How might you spot whether a classroom is a MOLE?**

Ask the students, perhaps using a rating scale¹
with elements such as:

In this classroom

A. *Students are asked by the teacher to:*

- think about how they learn
- explain how they solve problems
- think about their difficulties in learning
- think about how they could become better learners
- try new ways of learning

B. *Students discuss with each other:*

- how they learn
- how they think when they learn
- different ways of learning
- how well they are learning
- how they can improve their learning

C. *Students discuss with the teacher:*

(as B above)

These sub-scales are distinct and the overall rating does discriminate between different classrooms. However “the mean scores reported for each of the scales suggests that the population of students who participated in this study perceived that their classrooms were, on average, not particularly oriented to the development of metacognition” (page 187) – average rating of items in B and C “seldom”.

¹ Thomas GP (2003), “Conceptualisation, development and validation of an instrument for investigating the metacognitive orientation of science classroom learning environments: The Metacognitive Orientation Learning Environment Scale - Science (MOLES-S)”, *Learning Environments Research*, 6(2): 175-197