The DCSF supported Action plan for Geography is delivered jointly and equally by the GA and the RGS-IBG. MI5 is based on the Matthew Lipman concept of a Community of Enquiry. Students generate questions on cause, effect and solution. They answer the questions themselves using their existing knowledge (from previous work, the news, other sources and resources provided by the teacher etc.) by thinking creatively about solutions. It is an opportunity to show that geography is not just something taught in school but students to feed in from the news and other sources they have been watching and reading. It is particularly useful for teaching about very topical events.

This is a student-centred, enquiry-based activity. The aim of the activity is to encourage students to really look at what is in front of them and ask questions of what they see (and hear). This activity encourages students to be creative in thought and also to accept that not everything can be easily answered. It also works well because it is based upon a Think: Pair: Share structure.

Stimulus material
– A song or picture or both.

Everyone thinks of as many questions as they can. Then select their best or favourite 2.

Pupils share these questions with their group (and the group then selects their 2 or 3 best / favourites). Each group then shares one question with the class. The teacher writes these questions on to the board.

The teacher asks one person one of the questions, which they try to answer. The person answering can then choose someone else to answer another of the questions. This questioning can take place in any order and the questions can be repeated. This part can take as long as you like.

Students, in groups, must then attempt to answer ALL the questions on the board. (Perhaps trying to answer them through research activities). Then get students into a circle.

Remember to thank all students as soon as they have participated. Use names to make students feel their contribution was worthwhile.

Remember to discuss what makes a ‘good’ question.