



A process approach to
information, technology
and research.

The Big 6

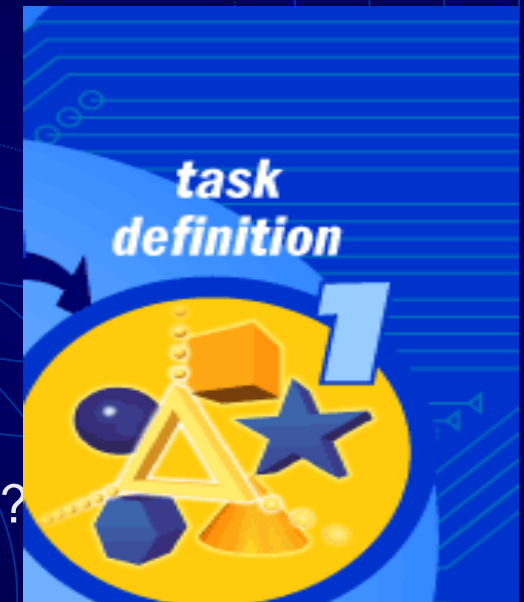
- The Big 6 was developed by Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz.
- It is the most widely-known and widely-used approach to teaching information and technology skills in the world.
- The Big6 integrates information search and use skills along with technology tools in a systematic process to find, use, apply, and evaluate information to specific needs and tasks.

1. Task Definition

- Define the information problem.
- Identify the information needed.

This is in order to complete the task.

- What am I supposed to do?
- What information do I need in order to do this?



1. Task Definition (Example)

- First, I have to determine my task.
- My assignment is to do an oral presentation about a character from Greek Mythology.
- I choose to do a PowerPoint presentation about Poseidon.



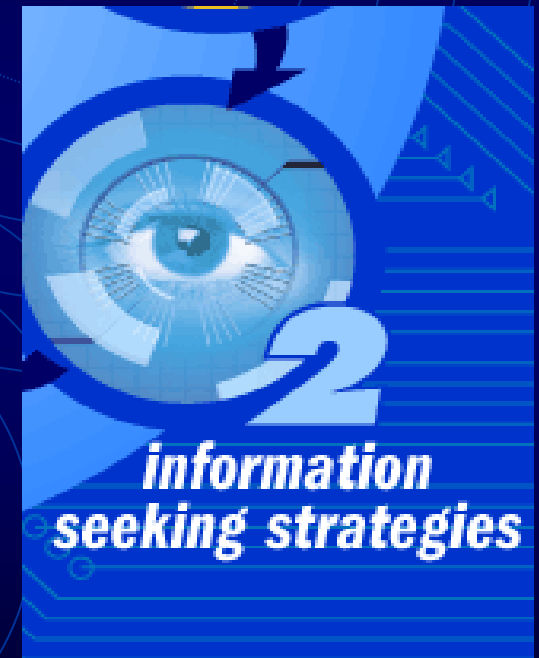
1. Task Definition (Example)

- Second, I must determine what kind of information I need to complete my task.
- What are some potential questions I might ask about Poseidon.
 - Who was Poseidon?
 - Who were his parents and siblings?
 - Where did he live?
 - What did he do?
 - Did he have any unique characteristics?



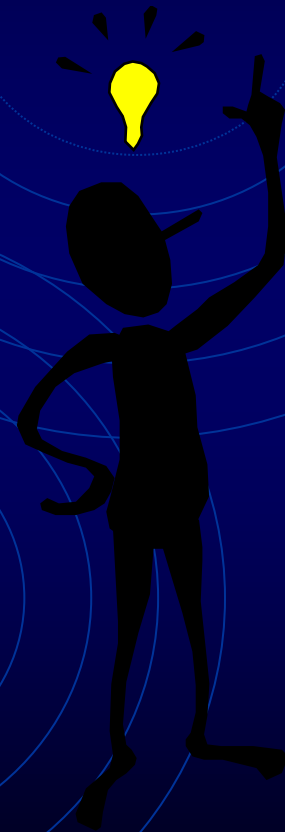
2. Information Seeking Strategies

- Determine the range of possible sources (brainstorm)
- Evaluate the different possible sources to determine priorities (select the best sources)
 - What are the possible sources?
 - Which are the best?



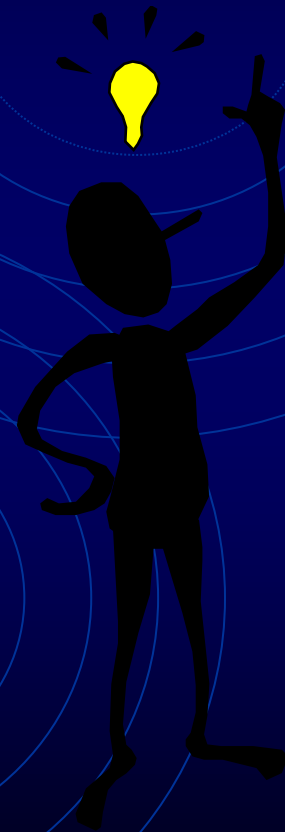
2. Information Seeking Strategies (Example)

- Where can I find information about Poseidon?
 - Textbook
 - Internet
 - Electronic Databases
 - Books
 - Teacher
 - Librarian
 - Magazines/Periodicals



2. Information Seeking Strategies (Example)

- Which of these sources are my best options to find information on Poseidon?
- Use books, electronic databases and some Internet sites for historical topics.
- Use magazines, periodicals, and some Internet sites for current events.



3. Location and Access

- Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
- Find information within sources
 - Where is each source?
 - Where is the information in each source?



3. Location and Access (Example)

- Where can I find the sources I have identified?
 - School Library
 - Public Library
 - Personal Library
 - Classroom Resources
 - Computers/Internet



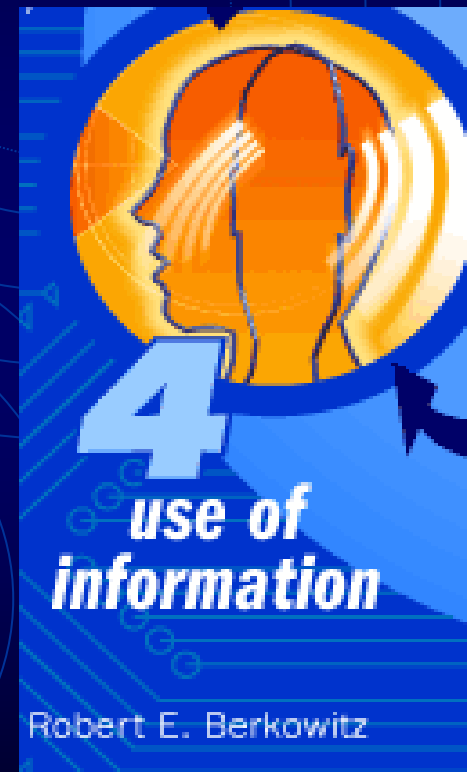
3. Location and Access (Example)

- If I use the Internet, a database or library catalog, what are the best keywords for me to use?
 - Poseidon
 - Greek Mythology
 - Mythology, Greek



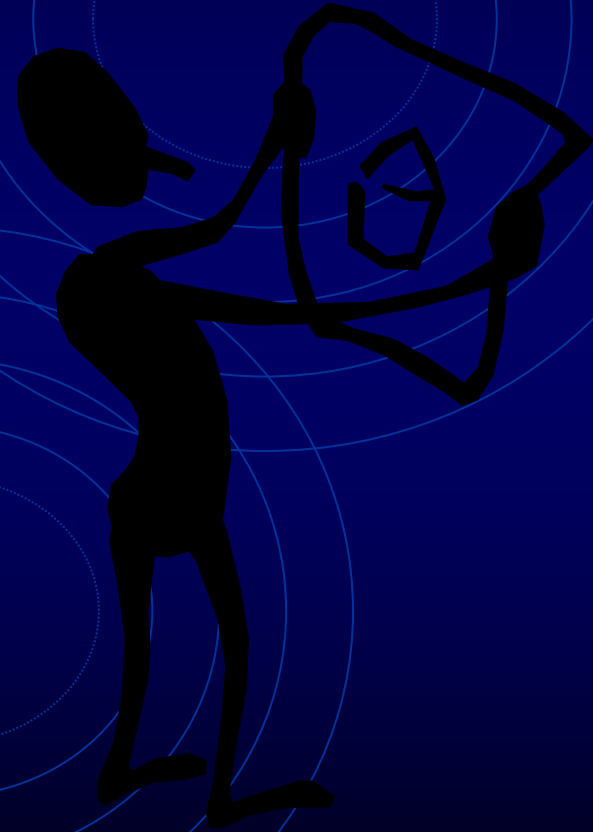
4. Use of Information

- Engage (read, hear, view, touch) the information in a source
- Extract relevant information from a source
 - How can I best use each source?
 - What information is each source is useful?



4. Use of Information (Example)

- Now that I have found my information, what am I going to do with it?
 - Take notes on note cards
 - Take notes on notebook paper
 - Take notes using a word processor
 - Take notes using a graphic organizer
 - Use a tape recorder, video or digital camera



5. Synthesis

- Organize information from multiple sources
- Present the information
 - How can I organize all the information?
 - How can I present the result?



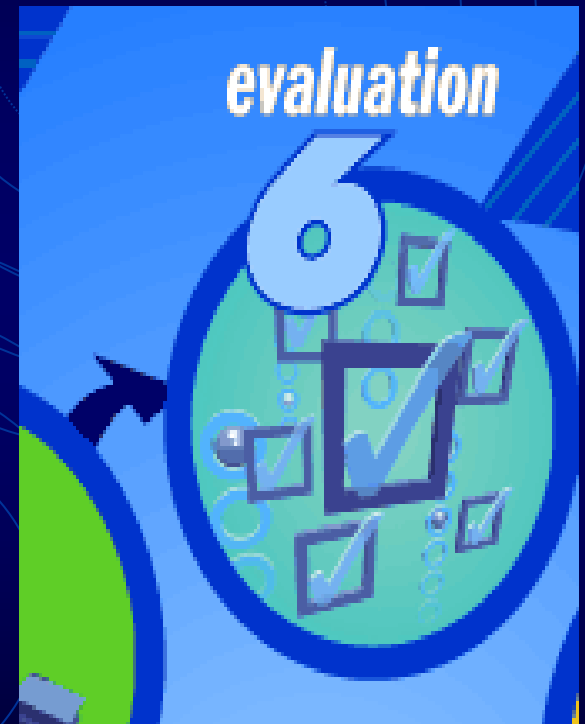
5. Synthesis (Example)

- Once I have all my information, how will I present my final results? (Remember the task definition in Big6 #1)
 - Written Paper
 - Oral Presentation with Visual Aids (Posters, Models, Costumes, etc.)
 - Multimedia Presentation (PowerPoint)
 - Performance



6. Evaluation

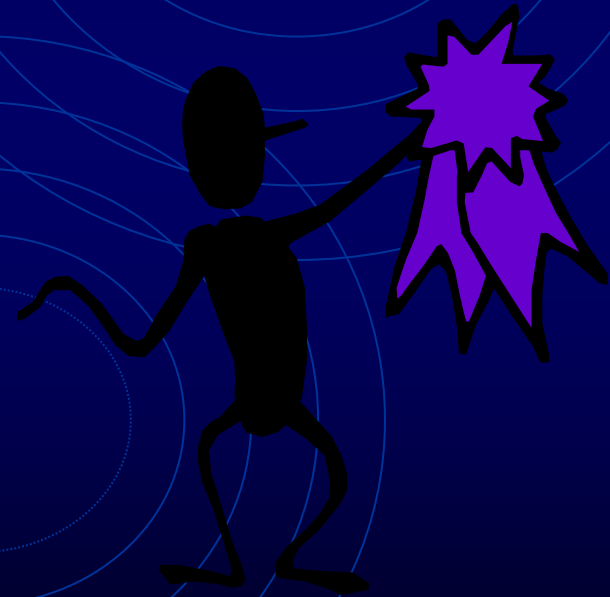
- Judge the product (effectiveness)
- Judge the information problem-solving process (efficiency)
 - Is the task completed?
 - How can I do things better?



6. Evaluation (Example)

- Prior to submitting my final project, I need to evaluate it myself to make sure I have met all the requirements.
 - Does my final project match the task I defined in Big6 #1?
 - Does the information I found in Big6 #4 match the information I said I needed in Big6 #1?
 - Did I cite my sources?
 - Is my work neat?

- Is my work complete?
- Am I proud of my work?



Big6 Resources

- <http://www.big6.com>
- <http://fp3e.adhost.com/big6/enewsletter/>
- <http://www.surflife.ne.jp/janetm/big6info.htm>
- http://nb.wsd.wednet.edu/big6/big6_resources.htm#overview
- <http://www.clovisusd.k12.ca.us/alta/big6/b6intchart.htm>