

Data

On this poster, record the source and a descriptive title of your dataset. Now create a key that lists the variables as given in the source with descriptive names or explanations of what they are. (Example: if the source lists "GDPPC" you might call it gross domestic product per capita, or GDP per capita if everyone on your team is comfortable with the term GDP) This will likely require some digging at the source.

If your dataset has a very large number of variables, pick a small number to work with, up to a maximum of 10.

What do you care about?

What's interesting about this collection of data? What are you curious about? Imagine other people who might use this data - what do they care about? Why is this data important for them?

Possible Questions

Based on what you know about the system, work as a group to generate ideas for different questions you might be able to investigate with a model of the physical system. Try to identify questions that relate to different types of work (prediction, explanation, design). Write your questions on individual post-its, and organize them below.

Tractable/Interesting Questions

You've generated a bunch of possible questions. As a group, choose three that you think are particularly interesting, and place them at the right.

Pre-Model Thinking

Now **START** thinking about what model you might build to answer each of these questions. Is it deterministic or stochastic? How might you create a representation (an abstraction) of the system in images? What might the model parameters be? This is just to get you started.

NOTE that yes, you are building a model **FOR** the specific question you're asking. A good model is one that is appropriate for the work you need it to do.

If you begin this process and realize that the question isn't all that tractable or interesting after all, it's fine to choose a different question instead.

