Sample Back-Pocket Questions for Working with Models

*Note: You will want to consider which purposes you most want to foreground in your classroom work at any given time.

Purpose	Sample Questions
To press for deeper how/why explanation	How do you think ___ works? What would make ___ happen faster/slower, more/less? Why would ___? Where would the water go next? Then where?
To press for evidence	How do you know that happens? What makes you think that? Have you seen something like that happen before? Have you seen something that makes you agree/disagree with ___?
To compare and contrast models	What is an idea that is the same -- that many of us had in our models? How are people showing __? Where do you see the idea in this model?
To decide on representations	How do we want to show that idea? Why do you think __ is a good way of showing __?
To evaluate ideas as a group	How many people agree/disagree with the idea that __? Put your thumb up if you agree, down if you disagree, and to the side if you're not sure... Why do you agree/disagree with the idea that __? How does __ make sense? In what ways does __ not make sense? Why might someone agree/disagree? What questions do you have about this idea?
To determine next steps	What do we still need to figure out? What aren't we sure about? What questions do you/we have? What do you think we could do to figure out __? How could we test __?