

K-W-L Chart

This chart is designed to help students activate background knowledge before and after reading. This can support reading comprehension during reading and also guide students to reflect on their learning and check their understanding after finishing a text. It was designed for use while reading at home, but could also be used in the classroom. Before reading, students write what they already know about the text's topic in the "K" column. They also write what they would like to learn about the topic in the "W" column. After reading, students fill out the "L" column with the new information about the topic that they have learned from the text.

Additional Resources

For more information on using a K-W-L chart to support student reading comprehension, read the Iowa Reading Research Center blog post ["Supporting Your Children's and Teens' Home Learning: Using a K-W-L Chart to Activate Background Knowledge"](#) by Emma Tee.

K-W-L Chart

What I...

Know



What I...



Want to know

What I...

Learned



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