

KWL

PURPOSE:

To help students identify their prior knowledge about a concept, lesson, or idea.

INTRODUCTION:

The KWL strategy helps students focus on what they

Know about a particular subject, what they

Want to know, and finally what they

Learned about that topic.

Focusing on prior knowledge and on what they want to know assists comprehension.

STEPS FOR USE WITH AUDIO BOOKS:

Use the KWL chart with any type of textbook reading assignment, for example a science chapter on cell division.

- 1 On the chalkboard, draw the three columns – KWL –
- 2 Under the K column, list what the students already know about the topic
- 3 Under the W column, list what the students want to know. Have students state this in question form so that they can look for the answer while reading.
- 4 Listen to the selected text.
- 5 When the reading/listening is complete, the L column is used to list what they learned. This can be done as whole class, in small groups, or individually as an assignment sheet. Answers can be written across from the question.

NOTE: It is not necessary for the L column to line up with the other columns. Students may have learned something they had not predicted.

EXAMPLE FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS:

TOPIC: Tyrannosaurus Rex

K	W	L
Meat eater	What dinosaur was T-Rex's main prey?	<i>Triceratops</i>
T-Rex was huge	How big was T-Rex?	<i>Up to 40 ft. tall & 5-7 tons in weight</i>
Lived a long time ago	During what period did T-Rex live?	<i>85 to 65 million years ago</i>
		<i>The largest T-Rex skeleton is named Sue and is at a museum in Chicago</i>

EXAMPLE FOR OLDER STUDENTS:

TOPIC: Cell Division

K	W	L
Cells are in bodies	What do cells do?	<i>Different functions for different cells; they keep us alive</i>
They multiply	How do they multiply?	<i>Mitosis</i>
There are many different kinds of cells	What kind of cells are there?	<i>Plant cells, animal cells, fungal cells</i>
	What are cells made of?	<i>Nucleus Cell Membranes Cytoplasm</i>

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TOPIC:

K	W	L