

Before Reading Strategy: KWL Chart

The KWL Chart will help you activate prior knowledge on the topic you are about to read, as well as guide you through the text by asking questions and locating the answers.

The KWL Chart

What I KNOW	What I WANT to Know	What I Have LEARNED

K (or Know)

This first stage may surprise you:

Think first about, then list, what you know about the topic before reading.

- Brainstorm! Before looking at the text, think of keywords, terms, or phrases about the topic.
- Record these in the “K” column of your chart until you cannot think of more.

W (or Want)

The second stage is to list a series of questions of what you want to know more about on the subject, based upon what you listed in “K”.

- Preview the text’s table of contents, headings, pictures, charts etc.
- List some thoughts on what you want, or expect to learn, generally or specifically. Think in terms of what you will learn, or what do you want to learn about this.

L (or Learned)

The final stage is to answer your questions, as well as to list what new information you have learned either while reading or after you have finished.

- List out what you learn as you read, either by section, or after the whole work, whichever is comfortable for you.
- Check it against the “W” column, what you wanted to learn.