**K-W-L Plus Strategy in Steps**

1. Identify the topic under investigation. This can be at the unit level (biomes) or focused on specific topics (plant cells, causes of World War I).

2. Ask students to share what they know or think they know about the topic. Record their responses (right or wrong) in the first column: K- What We Know.

3. Record students’ questions as this information is shared in the middle column: W- What We Want to Know. You may also need to ask students what they would like to know more about or what they would like to learn about the topic.

4. OPTIONAL STEP: Guide students in categorizing their knowledge and questions, which are recorded in a list titled Categories of Information We Expect to Use. Categories for a topic of rattlesnakes might include where they live, what they do, how they look, and their effects on people.

5. Ask students to read the story or selection to look for information that answers their questions or expands their understanding of the topic.

6. When students have completed their reading, focus their attention on the third colum: L- What We Have Learned. Ask students to share new information they discovered through the reading.

7. Students can then transform the information to a concept map or a write a summary of the selection.

8. There are a number of variations to the K-W-L chart. An “H” column can be added for **H**ow do we know the information or a “Q” column can be added for further **q**uestions.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **What We Know** | **What We Want to Know** | **What We Learned** |
|  |  |  |
| **Summary:** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What We Know** | **What We Want to Know** | **What We Learned** |
|  |  |  |
| **Categories of Information We Expect to Use:** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What We Know** | **What We Want to Know** | **What We Learned** | **Questions We Still Have** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Summary:** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What We Know** | **How We Know It** | **What We Want to Know** | **What We Learned** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Summary:** |