K-W-L (Know, Want to Know, Learned) Strategy

Description
K-W-L (Ogle, 1986) is an instructional reading strategy that is used to guide students through a text. Students begin by brainstorming everything they Know about a topic. This information is recorded in the K column of a K-W-L chart. Students then generate a list of questions about what they Want to Know about the topic. These questions are listed in the W column of the chart. During or after reading, students answer the questions that are in the W column. This new information that they have Learned is recorded in the L column of the K-W-L chart.

Purpose
The K-W-L strategy serves several purposes:
- Elicits students' prior knowledge of the topic of the text.
- Sets a purpose for reading.
- Helps students to monitor their comprehension.

How to use the K-W-L strategy
1. Choose a text. This strategy works best with expository texts.
2. Create a K-W-L chart. The teacher should create a chart in whatever format which gives the student visual access. In addition, (when appropriate) the students should have their own chart on which to record information.

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