

Lesson Blueprints: Graphic Organizers and Charts

Lesson Title: K-W-L Chart (Know, Want to Know, Learned)

Grade Level: Elementary School

Project and Purpose

Students organize information before, during, and after a unit or lesson on a chart.

Essential Question

How does a K-W-L Chart help us organize what we know and want to know before a lesson and what we've learned after our studies?

Materials

Using the model provided, make a large K-W-L chart.

Introduction

1. Tell students that before you begin the next unit/lesson, you want to know what everyone already knows and wants to know about the topic.
2. Show students the K-W-L Chart. Write the overarching topic of your lesson at the top of the chart paper.
3. Explain what each of the three letters mean.
 - K for "Know" the facts we are sure of or think we are sure of before we begin
 - W for "Want to Know" or "Wonder"
 - L for "Learned" what we understand at the end of the lesson or unit.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Demonstrate how to fill in the first two columns by doing a think aloud.
2. Explain how you will wait to complete the third column. That's where you will get a chance to correct any misinformation you had in the first two columns or expand on the knowledge. You can do that during lessons, or at the end of the unit.

Guided Exploration (We do) and Independent Practice (You do)

1. Work as a group to complete the first two columns of the chart.
2. For column 1: K. Ask your students: What do you already know about this topic? Students can do this individually, with a partner, or with small groups. As students share their ideas, record them in the K column.
3. Complete Column 2: W. Ask your students: What do you want to know about this topic? What are you wondering about this topic? It may be helpful to prompt your students with questions such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? to encourage them to think about what they might want to learn. Give time for your students to think individually, with a partner, or in small groups. Record their responses on the chart. This step provides an opportunity for teachers to present what they hope students will learn in the unit.



Conclusion

At the end of the lesson or unit, work as a group to complete column 3: L. Throughout the lesson or unit, students can review the K-W-L chart and add to column 3 by thinking “What did I learn?” Some teachers have students fill out this column at the end of the lesson or unit, while others add to the column as the lesson progresses. Fill out column 3 in the way that is best for your classroom. As the column is being completed, encourage students to reference their questions in column 2 to see what they can now answer. Students should also review column 1 so they can identify any misconceptions they may have held before the unit.

Notes

Lesson Blueprints: What is SEL?
Worksheet: K-W-L Chart
Grade Level: Elementary School

Topic _____

 What I know.	 What I want to know.	 What I learned.