



## K-W-L

A major challenge of substitute teaching, particularly in the upper grades, is trying to teach a subject you know absolutely nothing about. One method of providing a meaningful learning experience in such a situation is the utilization of a K-W-L chart. K-W-L stands for:

- "What do I Know?"
- "What do I Want to know?"
- "What have I Learned?"

A K-W-L chart provides an outline for having students teach you. As you are being taught, the students will be teaching each other, and clarifying concepts in their own minds.

A lesson using K-W-L begins by the teacher listing the letters K, W, and L across the top of the board. Under the appropriate letter write, "What do I know?" "What do I want to know?" and "What have I learned?" (see page 45). Generated by the students, the teacher lists facts that students know about the subject in the first column. In the second column, the teacher lists things students want to know or understand. A brief look at a student textbook will help generate "want to know" topics and ideas that students are capable of addressing. Students are then asked to help answer and explain the items listed in the "W" column. Encouraging students to refer to their textbooks and other resources to answer your questions helps ensure that correct principles are being taught and explained.

At the end of the time period or lesson, the students and the teacher complete the final column, listing what they have learned during the class, with students checking to make sure the "learned" information is correct.

An example of a K-W-L chart used for learning about volcanoes:

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
What do I <b>Know</b> ?	What do I <b>Want</b> to know?	What have I <b>Learned</b> ?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lava comes out of volcanoes.</li> <li>2. There are volcanoes in Hawaii.</li> <li>3. Volcanoes erupt.</li> <li>4. The lava from volcanoes is hot.</li> <li>5. Volcanoes can be dangerous.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is lava?</li> <li>2. Where does lava come from?</li> <li>3. Where are most of the volcanoes in the world?</li> <li>4. Why do volcanoes erupt?</li> <li>5. etc.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lava is melted rock.</li> <li>2. When lava is still under ground, it is called magma.</li> <li>3. etc.</li> </ol>

An adaptation of this teaching method is to have students complete individual K-W-L charts (see page 46). This works well with assignments such as reading science chapters or watching videos. Before the activity, students write down what they know and what they want to/think they will learn during the activity. At the end of the activity they complete the third column. A class discussion of the information students list in the third column helps clarify any confusing points and provides a review of the material covered.

# K-W-L Chart

<b>K</b> What do I Know?	<b>W</b> What do I Want to know?	<b>L</b> What have I Learned?
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
9.	9.	9.
10.	10.	10.