

KWHLAQ Chart

What is a KWHLAQ chart?

A KWHLAQ chart is an extended version of the traditional KWL chart. Both are teaching tools that help to organize thoughts and ideas, before, during, and after a learning task. First, students identify what they know about a topic. Then, they think about what they want to learn. After the lesson, they then reflect on what they have learned.

KWHLAQ chart asks the following questions:

K – What students already KNOW about a topic?

W – WHAT students want to learn or find out?

H – HOW they will research or find the information they want to learn?

L – What students have LEARNED about the topic after the learning experience?

A – How will students APPLY the knowledge they've learned?

Q – What QUESTIONS they still have or have thought of as a result of the learning exercise?

Why do a KWHLAQ chart?

The KWHLAQ chart is a simple but effective instructional technique that puts the student at the centre of inquiry-based learning.

- The benefits of using a KWHLAQ chart with your learners are that it:
- Provides teachers with valuable information as to what students already know about a given topic (diagnostic assessment).
- Builds collective learning by helping students to learn from each other (peer-to-peer learning).
- Enables teachers to create more enjoyable lesson plans that address the interests, questions, and needs of the students
- Creates interest and curiosity and encourages students to expand their ideas beyond the lesson or training provided in the classroom environment.
- Facilitates a more authentic experience by asking them how they will apply their knowledge.

Procedure:

1. Set the topic for the KWHLAQ exercise and define the aim. Discuss how the students will benefit from learning about the topic and why it's important. Introduce information, concepts, and questions/prompts that could help students with the brainstorming process.
2. Students brainstorm what they already know about the topic and share their current knowledge by filling out the "What I KNOW" column of the chart.
3. Students then consider what more they would like to find out about the topic and fill out the "What I want to KNOW" section of the KWHLAQ chart.
4. Ask students to populate the "HOW I will find out" column with ideas about how they will find the answers they need. This might include brainstorming key words to search for online, questions to ask a person, and so on.
5. Promote higher order thinking by collating and sharing all the ideas with the class for discussion. Provide feedback and clarify any questions.
6. The next stage of the learning exercise can now be done based on the needs of the students and the overall objectives.
7. After the learning phase, ask students to complete the "L-What I learned" column of the KWHLAQ chart. Ideally, by now all the areas in the "W-What I want to know" column have been addressed, any misconceptions in column "K- What I know" have been clarified, and the students have acquired the knowledge of the topic that they want and needed.
8. Depending on the topic and outcomes, students may be able to apply the new knowledge to other subject areas, or even their personal lives. Document these ideas in the "A-How I will Apply this knowledge" column.

9. If students still have questions, or any new questions have arisen. These ideas go in the "Q – Questions I still have" column of the KWHLAQ chart.

Examples of activities for each stage of the KWHLAQ chart:

K = what do you know

Brainstorm
Mindmap
Think-pair-share
Blog post
Video journal
Collaborative wall such as Padlet
Sticky notes

W – What do you want to know

Brainstorm
Do some research about the topic
See – think – wonder
Think – puzzle – explore
Video journal

H- how will you find out

Online research
Books
Magazines
Journals
Do a WebQuest
Speaking to people

L – what you have learned

I used to think ..., now I think ...
Reflective blog post
Create an artefact of evidence
Create an infographic
Visually represent your learning

A – What actions will you take

Apply what you have learned
Teach someone else

Q – What further questions do you have

Create a google document where you can continue exploring questions collaboratively
Reflect on the process of learning

What to ask yourself at each stage of the KWHLAQ process

Stage		Results
K	What do I think I <u>k</u> now now about the topic at hand?	
W	What do I <u>w</u> ant to find out?	
H	How will I go about finding out? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explore options - create a plan - implement plan 	
L	What have I <u>l</u> earned?	
A	How will I <u>a</u> pply what I have learned in other projects/learning experiences?	
Q	What new <u>q</u> uestions do I have following our inquiry?	