

EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

Activating Prior Knowledge

Before Reading	During Reading	After Reading
How can I activate my students' prior knowledge?	How can I teach students to use their prior knowledge during reading?	What can I do after completing the reading selection?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students think about (recall) what they already know. • Brainstorm what they already know about the topic. • Organize their prior knowledge using graphic organizers (charts, graphs, etc.) • Select familiar vocabulary words to trigger their prior knowledge. • Create questions that will draw on prior knowledge that do not have yes or no answers (broad questions). • Make predictions. • Link personal experiences to content. • Pose questions to be answered. • Scan the content material to see how it is organized. • Look at the pictures and titles. • Make inferences: If this. . . then this. . . • Skim the vocabulary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach them to link their knowledge to information in the text. • Use analogies to help them retrieve prior knowledge (if students have trouble understanding volcanoes, begin the lesson with a discussion of explosions). • Help them to identify important information. • Check, change, or confirm their predictions while reading for clarity. ("I thought this would be about. . . I was right/I was way off target/I had part of it right."). • Assist them in identifying new information that was not in their prior knowledge. • Have them think and recall what they are reading so they are constantly summarizing. • Use the term "prior knowledge" in your instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate information learned. • Summarize and organize information so that it is easier to remember (through the use of a graphic organizer). • Link/integrate new knowledge with old knowledge. • Understand the big picture (highlights of the selection). • Connect information so it will be transferred to other situations and content areas. • Review the material in relation to your goals/outcomes. • Use answered questions to pose additional questions.

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