



## KWHL

### Description:

**KWHL** Know? **W**ant to know? **H**ow will I find out? What did I **L**earn? is a tool that is used to inform teachers of the knowledge and interest level of their students at the start of a topic or unit and to assist in assessing their learning at the completion.

### How could I use it?

- ★ As a process to focus a class or a team.
- ★ To find out what students know about a topic before or at the start.
- ★ To find out what students *want* to know.
- ★ To develop and make explicit a plan of action for finding out what students want to know
- ★ For reflection after an assignment

### Why should I use it?

- ★ It is a structured process that informs teachers of what students already know and where their interests and questions lie.
- ★ It allows students to have ownership of their learning.
- ★ It promotes higher order thinking.
- ★ It assists students and teachers in developing a plan of learning action.
- ★ It assists in teacher and self assessment.

### When should I use it?

- ★ At the start or very early in a new topic or unit to ask the 'Know?', 'Want to Know?' and 'How will I find out questions?'
- ★ At the completion of the topic or unit to reflect upon what each student has learnt.

## How do I use it?

Name of Topic/Unit

★ Give students a large piece of paper divided into two sections. The topic or unit is written at the top.

Name of Topic/Unit What do I Know?
What do I Want to Know?

★ The top section has '**What do I Know?**' on it. The lower section has '**What do I Want to Know?**'

★ Students can work alone, in pairs or small groups to answer these questions.

★ The responses can be discussed as a class to discover what the knowledge base and interests of the class are. Alternatively, the teacher can review and summarise the responses. The students' responses provide a focus for the development and teaching of the topic or unit.

Name of Topic/Unit How will I find out?
--

★ A second sheet of paper should be used to develop a learning plan in the topic or unit. This can be developed as a whole class, in small groups or individually in consultation and discussion with the teacher.

Name of Topic/Unit What did I learn?
---

★ At the conclusion of the topic or unit students respond to the question '**What have I learnt?**' They use their responses to the earlier questions to evaluate the extent to which their knowledge has been increased and whether what they wanted to know has been achieved.