



# The Power of Prior Knowledge: Unlocking Learning for All

## Essential Questions:

1. What prior knowledge would students need to know, or be reminded of, to access your curriculum (lesson plan, reading materials, unit of study, textbook, etc.)?
2. How can you make that prior knowledge student centred? For example, what ways can you find to make it directly connected to your student's life experiences and/or current beliefs?
3. What strategies will you use to ensure all students are "lifting the weights" throughout the prior knowledge activation (think-pair-share? Always write first? Small group? Students interviewing each other on a given idea or topic? Etc.)?

## Types of prior knowledge strategies:

KWL Chart

Anticipatory guides

A list of topics that the student will check "agree" or "disagree" on and compare these answers with a partner or team.

A demonstration

Pictures, music, videos that students can directly respond to

Thought provoking questions

Quick writes

Poems

Predictions

Venn Diagrams

Advanced Organisers

## When to activate prior knowledge?

Start of a lesson

New unit

Beginning of a book chapter

Textbook reading

Content specific vocabulary

New themes, main concepts, or new ideas that will be in the lesson