

KWL Chart

The KWL chart was designed as an instructional reading strategy teachers could use to guide students' textbook reading. However, you can use KWL to help you learn about a topic.



Here is what a blank KWL chart looks like.

K	W	L

The **K** in KWL stands for what you already **know** about the topic. Complete the **K** column by thinking about and writing what you already know about the topic.

The **W** in KWL stands for what else you **want** to know about the topic. Complete the **W** column by writing the questions you want to answer about the topic.

The **L** in KWL stands for what you **learned** about the topic as you read your textbook and use reference sources. Complete the **L** column by writing the answers to the questions you wrote in the **W** column. Also, write in the **L** column other information you learned as you answered the questions.

An example of a KWL chart that a student completed for the topic "Deserts" is shown on the next page.

Topic: DESERTS

Know already	Want to know	Learned from textbook, reference sources
<p>A desert is a dry area of land that is typically very hot.</p> <p>More than 1/5 of the world is desert.</p> <p>Hard for plants to survive in the desert.</p> <p>Hard for animals to survive in the desert.</p>	<p>Are there any areas of water in a desert?</p> <p>Are there cold deserts?</p> <p>What is the largest desert?</p> <p>How do plants survive?</p> <p>How do animals survive?</p>	<p>There are areas with water in a desert that are called an oasis.</p> <p>They are found by an aquifer or an underground stream. Aquifer is an underground bed or layer that yields water.</p> <p>You'll find more plants and animals by an oasis than in any other part of the desert.</p> <p>The Gobi Desert can get as cold as -40° in the winter because it is far north of the equator.</p> <p>The Sahara Desert is more than 3 million square miles in area.</p> <p>Mostly by using their long roots to get to water below the ground.</p> <p>They avoid the heat of the day and come out only at night.</p> <p>Mammals such as camels and rodents can go for long periods without water. So can many birds and insects.</p>

Using a KWL chart can help you bring together information about any topic.