

Antarctic KWL

Integration: across the curriculum

Grade Levels: 3-6

Time: 1-2 class periods

Materials:

- *KWL Chart* handout
- Large KWL chart for the classroom (teacher made)

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Brainstorm what they already know about Antarctica.
2. Decide what they would like to know about Antarctica.
3. Prepare a list of topics they would like to learn.

Lesson:

Full Group

1. Tell students that the class is beginning a series of lessons on the continent of Antarctica and the Bancroft Arnesen Expedition.
 - a. You will have to describe and discuss the Expedition if you have not done so already.
2. Inform students that they will be learning many different things about Antarctica, about the explorers, and about the Expedition. The best way to figure out what everyone knows and is interested in is to fill out a KWL chart.
3. Explain to students the concept of the KWL chart. Tell them that by brainstorming they will reveal what they already know and what interests them about Antarctica.
 - a. K: Each student will write down everything they know about Antarctica and the Bancroft Arnesen Expedition.
 - b. W: Each student will write down what they want to know about Antarctica and the Bancroft Arnesen Expedition.
 - c. L: At the end of the series of lessons, students will compare what they learned to what they wanted to know.
4. Inform students that they will refer back to their KWL charts throughout the series of lessons. It will help them to see how much more they know about Antarctica and the Expedition.

- a. Explain that they may not learn everything they wanted to know about Antarctica or the Bancroft Arnesen Expedition. They may want to do more research on their own after the lessons are over.
5. Give the students about 5 to 10 minutes to fill out their *KWL Chart* handouts. Students may be divided into groups for this process.
6. Elicit responses from the students and fill in a teacher-made KWL classroom chart with the students' suggestions for each column. Keep in mind, some topics may fall under the K for some students and under the W for others.
7. Inform students that they will revisit the KWL classroom chart throughout the lessons to record what they have learned, to update what they want to learn, and to correct any misinformation in the "What I Know" column.
8. Refer to the *KWL Chart* handouts during the Antarctica lessons to allow students to enter what they have learned.

Assessment:

Teachers will assess:

- Student's understanding of the purpose of KWL charts.
- Student's ability to organize ideas.