

Knowledge Rating Scale

Purpose:

A knowledge rating is a self-assessment that a student completes before reading a chapter or engaging in a unit of study. This strategy allows the teacher to see how familiar the students already are with terms and concepts from the upcoming chapter. Additionally, the students activate prior knowledge and make predictions about the reading material.

Material:

Copies of knowledge rating scale graphic organizers
Textbook

Procedure:

1. The teacher develops the Knowledge Rating Scale by selecting keywords from the text to survey the students' prior knowledge of the vocabulary they will be encountering.
2. The students complete the Knowledge Rating Scale by evaluating their level of understanding of the keywords. (The students check whether they know a lot, some, or not much about the selected words).
3. The teacher initiates a discussion about the Knowledge Rating Scale. Encourage the students to share predictions about the meanings of the keywords.
4. Use the Knowledge Rating Scale to establish a purpose for reading the text. Ask the students what they think the text may be about.
5. Have the students compare their initial words meaning predictions with what they are learning as they read.

Resources:

Campbell, N.A., Reece, J.B., & Mitchell, L.G. (1999). *Biology*. Menlo Park, CA: Benjamin/Cummings.

Example:

Key Term	Know It	Unsure	Don't Know
Antibodies			
Antigen			
Phagocytosis			
Neutrophils			
Monocytes			
Eosinophils			
Histamine			
Mast Cells			
B Lymphocytes			
T Lymphocytes			
Memory Cells			
Cytotoxic T Cells			
Helper T Cells			