

Assessment Checklist for Activate and Connect

These are questions we have asked our students, but you can adapt them to fit your own students' unique needs.

Expectations for student thinking and learning

- Understand that nonfiction reading is about reading to learn information
- Understand the purpose of text and visual features
- Use text and visual features to gain information
- Listen to the inner voice when meeting new information
- Merge thinking with new information and react to it
- Connect background knowledge to new information
- Recognize that background knowledge may be inaccurate and revise thinking accordingly
- Respond to new learning and merge it with thinking—background knowledge, questions, reactions, opinions

Questions you can ask yourself to assess student understanding

- Do they understand the purpose of different features?
- Do they use text and visual features to support their understanding?
- Do they use language that shows they have merged their thinking with the new information?
- Are they able to respond and react to new information with questions, comments, etc.?
- Do they connect what they already know to what they are learning to enhance their understanding?
- Are they able to revise and change their thinking when they learn something new?
- Does merging their thinking with the information help them better understand and remember the content?

Questions students can ask themselves

- Did I pay attention to the features and learn from them?
- Did I listen to the voice in my head as I met new information?
- Did I leave tracks of my thinking when I met new information?
- Did I code the text with an "L" when I learned something new?
- Did I connect what I already know to new information?
- Did I merge my thinking with the information?
- Did I learn something that changed my mind?

Language of activating background knowledge and connecting to new learning

- "This reminds me of..."
- "I noticed..."
- "I have a connection..."
- "I know..."
- "I never knew..."
- "I learned..."
- "I am surprised..."
- "I can't believe..."
- "Wow!..."
- "Hmmm, interesting..."
- "Maybe if I read on..."
- "This feature helps me understand..."
- "That changes my mind..."