

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



5W Cube

The 5W Cube is a portable strategy to target open-ended questions (beginning with who, what, when, where, why, and how) as a means of exploring content and conversational speech. The 5W Cube helps students formulate questions and foster meaningful connections with content. The 5W Cube is a general strategy that can be used across the curriculum.

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5W CUBE

Summary

Students or teachers can make their own 5W Cubes—small or large—by making a paper cube with a 5W question word on each side. The 5W cube can be used for small-group and whole-class learning by tossing the cube and having students ask and answer questions beginning with their rolled "W." These in-depth, open-ended questions promote content-related discussion and help students apply critical thinking, content knowledge, and language skills.

Procedure

1. Invite students to make a paper cube using the step-by-step directions in the Student PowerPoint slides provided. Walk through these directions together, providing an example. If your students struggle to create their own cube, you may also opt to use a plastic six-sided die in its place, assigning each number to a "W".
2. Ask students to add one of the 5W question words to each side of the cube (who, what, when, where, why, and how).
3. Given a topic, reading passage, or prompt, ask students to take turns rolling the cube and asking a question using the 5W question word prompt displayed. For small-group discussions, make sure each group has a 5W Cube.
4. Ask group members (or students in the class, if a whole-class discussion) to take turns responding to the question before passing the cube to another classmate.