

# KWL

KWL will help you to select what is important when you are reading for information on a topic. Let's pretend for a moment that you are reading the selection "Where Have All the Red Wolves Gone?" in the introductory section "What Is a Red Wolf?"

**STEP #1: BEFORE YOU BEGIN READING,** write in the first column everything you know about the disappearance of red wolves and about red wolf recovery. If you aren't sure about something, jot it down anyway. If you know absolutely nothing about the topic, that's all right, too. Be honest.

**STEP #2: BEFORE YOU BEGIN READING,** write in the second column a list of questions. What do you want to learn about why red wolves became extinct in the wild? Do you know what "reintroduction" means? If you don't, look it up in the curriculum glossary. Try to write at least five questions. This will take some time and thought, but it will be worth the effort because it will focus your reading.

**STEP #3: Read the selection.** You may want to take notes in column #3 under the heading "What did I learn?" That would be especially appropriate if you find information in the selection that answers one of your specific questions.

**WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING:** Make a list of questions you have that remain unanswered. Perhaps you missed that piece of information in the selection. Ask someone else who read it and find out. Perhaps the selection did not cover that aspect of the topic. In that case, you may want to consult another source. Go to one of the suggested books or to one of the websites listed. They are filled with current and accurate information.

The KWL method can be used successfully for any informational reading you do. You will discover that you actually save time; you will remember what you have read because you will have established a purpose for reading; you will have searched what you already know about the topic; you will be focused on specific questions when you read; and you will have a quick and easy method for recording the information you gather. Give it a try!

