

Learning together

Activating Prior Knowledge for Better Predictions

ACTIVITY #2

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

You and your child have previewed the text to read. Now take a moment to talk about what you already know about the topic. This step is called **activating prior knowledge**.



Relevance of the activity

Activating prior knowledge means making connections between what we already know and new information. This helps us better understand and remember a text.



Supplies

- Text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!* (see Appendix)
- Prediction chart (what I know, what I learned, what I want to know) (see Appendix)
- A pencil to fill in the Prediction chart (see Appendix)
- A story from the reading materials your child uses at school
- A storybook adapted to your child's reading level



LET'S GO!

What?



Today, we will prepare for reading by activating our prior knowledge on the subject of the text.

Why?



Activating prior knowledge about the topic of the text helps us make predictions while reading and make connections between new information and what is already known.

When?



This strategy is used before reading. While reading, you check your predictions and adjust them by connecting new information to what you already know.

How?



After previewing the text and gathering clues to understand the main idea, we can activate different knowledge depending on the stage of reading.

Before reading:

We activate our knowledge about the topic or the structure of the text (is it a text that tells us a story or a text that describes something?).

During reading:

We make connections between new information and what we already know.
We stay active by checking if our predictions are correct.

*Read the text **Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!** to your child, then show them the "Prediction chart" in the Appendix as an example.*

Now that we know the text is about flamingos, I wonder what I already know about them. I know they are pink, but I don't know why. Maybe the text will explain it. I also know they have long legs, that they often stand on one leg, and that they dip their head in the water to look for food.

For now, that's all I know. While reading, I will check if my predictions are correct and learn new things about this fascinating animal.



You can now practise this strategy with a story adapted to your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

Before reading, write 2 or 3 ideas in the "What I know" column.
While reading, take a short pause to check your predictions and adjust them if needed.



Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

Do you know Flamie? She is a beautiful pink bird, who lives in marshes and lakes. Flamie is very elegant with her pretty feathers and long, thin legs.

Flamie likes to be with other pink flamingos. Sometimes, they band together in big groups to eat and rest.

Do you know why Flamie is pink? It's because of the food that she eats. She eats small shellfish that look like tiny shrimp.

Flamie moves around easily in the water thanks to her webbed feet. They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her to balance.

When you see a pink flamingo like Flamie, take a moment to admire their beauty. Pink flamingos are extraordinary animals!



Source: Chat GPT

Prediction chart

What I know...	What I want to know	What I have learned
Flamingos live near the water.	Why are flamingos pink?	Flamingos are pink because of the food they eat (small shrimp).