

Placing Background Knowledge in Daily Teaching

1. How is teaching different from telling?
2. How does a gradual release of responsibility model of instruction contribute to building background knowledge? What areas of this instructional design process do you do best? What areas would you like to improve?
3. In what ways do students benefit from your background knowledge? How can you help students benefit from your background knowledge?
4. Analyze a unit you recently taught. What background knowledge did your students need in order to do well? How did you build the prerequisite background knowledge for those who lacked it?
5. What resources are available at your school for building your students' background knowledge? understanding in other content areas?