

Connect - Extend - Challenge



How are the ideas and information presented connected to what you already knew?



What new ideas did you get that extended or broadened your thinking in new directions?



What challenges or puzzles have come up in your mind from the ideas and information presented?

purpose

This routine helps learners make connections between new ideas and prior knowledge. It also encourages them to take stock of ongoing questions, puzzles and difficulties as they reflect on what they are learning.

Synthesising
& Organising
Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine helps learners make connections between new ideas and prior knowledge. It also encourages them to take stock of ongoing questions, puzzles and difficulties as they reflect in what they are learning.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- After students have learned something new.
- This routine is broadly applicable to all Key Learning Areas

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

- Try to get a sense of how learners are making sense of ongoing, collective ideas that matter to the understanding of a topic through connections and extensions they share.
- *Are they recognising particular themes or nuances that tie ideas together?*
- *Are students seeing how ideas and concepts explored in this topic are connected or have relevance to bigger ideas in other subjects or beyond school?*

Adapted by Alice Vigors 2017

LAUNCH

What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?

1. **Set up** → Before listening, reading or viewing new information, invite them to be mindful of how this experience connects to what they already know. Ask them to think about how it pushes their thinking into new directions and to be aware of new challenges and puzzles that may surface as a result of what they hear, read, watch or experience.
2. **Connect** → After the learning experience, have learners take note of how what they've just experienced connects with ideas that have already explored or thought about. Ask *How do the ideas and information you've just heard connect to ideas you already thought about or knew?* Write connections individually before any group discussion.
3. **Extend** → Prompt students to identify how their ideas have broadened, deepened or expanded in some way as a result of the learning experience. Ask *How has your thinking been extended in some way, taking it in new, further or deeper directions?*
4. **Challenge** → Ask them to consider ideas that seem significantly challenging. Ask *What challenges or puzzles have come up in your mind?*
5. **Share the thinking** → Once students have responded individually, have them share their thoughts with partners or small groups. It is important that students give their reasons or thoughts behind why they made their selections.