

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE IN UNDERSTANDING READING TEXT

*by:*

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The amount of information a student has on a specific topic is referred to as background knowledge. Background knowledge can be acquired through one's life experiences or the knowledge retained through learning interactions. Reading a variety of books of various genres, listening to different media sources, and having conversations about various topics add to one's background information. Students of all ages and reading levels benefit from background knowledge. Reading skills improve when students use prior knowledge.

Background knowledge is an important factor in enhancing students' reading comprehension skills. This single factor can frequently support or break a student's reading comprehension level. Reading's ultimate goal is comprehension. Making connections is a crucial reading strategy that encourages readers to share text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections. Students' ability to share their connections, whether through conversation, writing, or illustration, is a strong indicator of a child's background knowledge. Background knowledge can be especially useful in comprehending nonfiction texts, which can be a difficult genre for students to fully comprehend.

When readers have a wealth of prior life experiences or knowledge about a content area, their reading comprehension skills increase. When a student already has the background knowledge to fully comprehend the presented text, their level of comprehension increases. Because they are more confident in the subject matter, these students can easily analyze and interpret the text, explain their point of view, and infer

and summarize it. The more knowledge a student has about a subject, the easier it is for him or her to comprehend the text. A child's level of opportunity or experience is also determined by the family's daily activities. Teachers should consider incorporating background knowledge into every literacy lesson to support student reading success.

When the teacher observes that a student's background knowledge is connected to comprehension, they must make a great effort to incorporate background knowledge into daily literacy classes. Background knowledge of a situation, historical phenomenon, innovation, or famous person can greatly influence a student's comprehension.

The teacher must find a way to incorporate background knowledge into each literacy lesson. The teacher may ask the students questions to draw connections to determine how much they know about the subject. The background knowledge of the new vocabulary of students influences their comprehension of a text. Using images to explore keywords or asking students to provide synonyms for selected vocabulary terms can strengthen background knowledge before reading.

Practicing independent reading activities is a simple and effective way to enhance a student's background knowledge. Another way to plan lessons that allow students to use prior knowledge is to use paired texts from different genres to support social studies and science objectives. A teacher should collect books, poems, and songs that relate to the information about the fiction and nonfiction reading materials used in the discussion. Reading comprehension improves when a student can apply acquired vocabulary and factual information from articles and books to their understanding of a fictional literary piece.

Background knowledge should be a creative and engaging component of a literacy lesson. Virtual field trips can be used in classrooms to locate places using a map. The use of printed images, signage, symbols, and landmarks affects text comprehension. Books transport readers to various places around the world, and the background of the place is

an important story element to comprehend. Making the book come to life also improves background knowledge.

Background knowledge is necessary for a student to truly understand the text. If teachers recognize the significance of the literacy component, they can design lessons that help students become better thinkers, readers, and learners throughout life.

*References:*

<https://www.teachhub.com/teaching-strategies/2021/08/the-importance-of-background-knowledge-in-understanding-text/>