The Insert Method

COMPONENT: Building Background

(RWCT Project of the International Reading Association)

Grade Levels: 3–12
Subject Levels: All
Grouping Configuration: Partners, Small Groups, Whole Class, Individual
Materials: Informational or expository text duplicated on paper students can write on

Description:
In partners, students read a nonfiction article using the following coding system, inserting the codes directly into the text they are reading:

- A check (√) mark indicates a concept or fact that is already known by the students.
- A question (?) mark indicates a concept or fact that is confusing or not understood.
- An exclamation mark (!) indicates something that is new, unusual or surprising.
- A (+) indicates an idea or concept that is new to the reader.

When the partners have concluded reading and marking the text, they share their markings with another set of partners. As misconceptions or misunderstandings are cleared up, the question mark is replaced with an asterisk (*). Following this small group work, the text is discussed with the teacher and the whole class.

SIOP® Connection

Content Objectives:
Students will be able to (SWBAT) . . .

- Use a coding system while reading a nonfiction text to identify concepts or facts that are familiar, those that are confusing, and those that are new, unusual, or surprising.
- Clarify misconceptions and misunderstandings about a text while working with group members.

Language Objectives:
Students will be able to (SWBAT) . . .

- Ask questions about concepts and facts that are confusing.
- Read and discuss with group members a piece of nonfiction text.