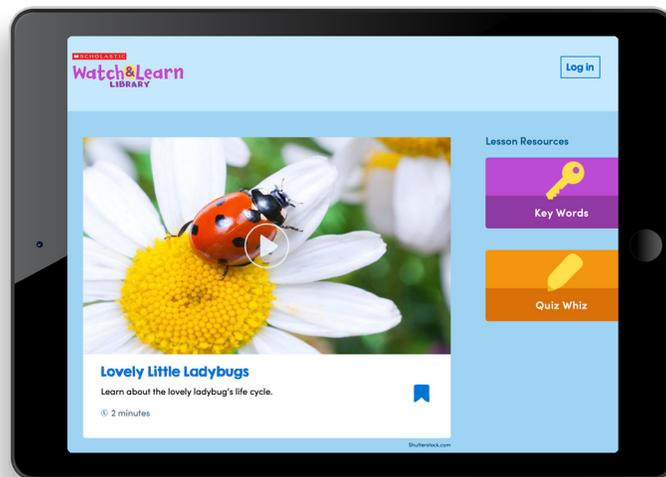




# Research-based Alignments

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# Watch & Learn LIBRARY™



## Program Overview

The Watch & Learn Library is an online hub of hundreds of core curriculum videos and teaching supports to strengthen preK–Grade 3 teaching and learning. Created by the early childhood experts at Scholastic, each video and its corresponding teaching supports are 100% equitable in both English and Spanish and are designed to connect real-life concepts to core science, social studies, and ELA topics. Watch & Learn can be used during whole-class instruction, to support small-group differentiation, and extend knowledge with anywhere, anytime access. Videos feature real-world footage with closed captions, and are supported with fun quizzes, vocabulary previews, and think sheets to promote comprehension and set a purpose for watching. Watch & Learn helps close the knowledge gap by expanding content-area vocabulary and building the background knowledge that is crucial for reading comprehension success.

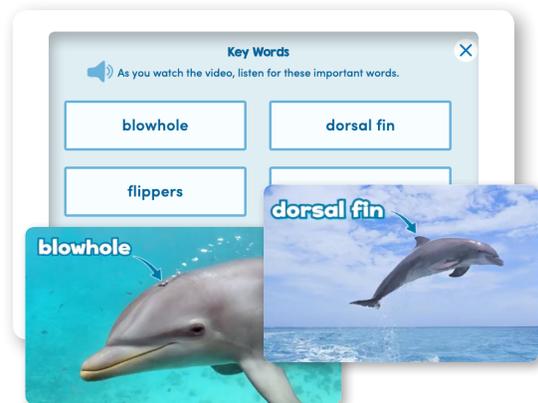
# The Impact of Vocabulary on Comprehension

## Research

- Growth in reading comprehension depends in part on vocabulary knowledge.
- Vocabulary appears to be a critical predictor of the early development of reading comprehension skills in both first and second language learners.
- Vocabulary study should be limited to lesson-specific terms that are essential to comprehending the big ideas central to the subject matter and high-incidence academic terms that are needed to discuss and write about the topic.
- Numerous studies have documented the strong and reciprocal relationship between vocabulary knowledge and reading comprehension.
- Whether or not readers understand a text depends far more on how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic than on how much they've practiced comprehension skills.
- Students who possess more vocabulary knowledge are likely to be better text comprehenders because they are more likely to know the meanings of the words contained in a text.

## Watch & Learn Connection

Each curriculum-aligned video in the Watch & Learn Library includes a vocabulary preview to help students comprehend what they're watching. Key academic vocabulary is presented in context of the video, alongside the visual to build knowledge of new vocabulary and help make language-to-real-world-knowledge connections. Previewing lesson-specific vocabulary is essential to comprehension.



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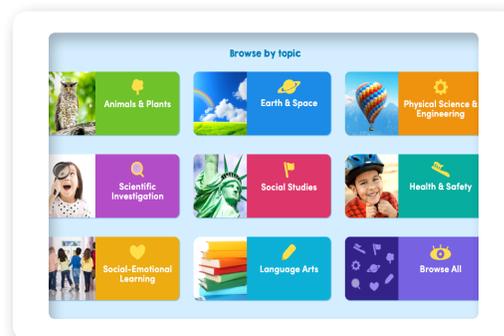
# The Critical Role Background Knowledge Plays in Comprehension and Acquisition of New Knowledge

## Research

- When it comes to improving reading comprehension, strategy instruction may have an upper limit, but building background knowledge does not; the more students know, the broader the range of texts they can comprehend.
- The ability to read a text and make sense of it is highly correlated with background knowledge.
- It is easier to fix new material in your memory when you already have some knowledge of the topic.
- Whether or not readers understand a text depends far more on how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic than on how much they've practiced comprehension skills.

## Watch & Learn Connection

The Watch & Learn Library builds background knowledge on hundreds of core curriculum science, social studies, and ELA and SEL topics, broadening student understanding of real-world concepts and leveling the field for all students to encounter deeper learning through texts with the same set of prior knowledge. .



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Kosmoski, G.J., Gay, G., & Vockell, E.L., "Cultural literacy and academic Achievement," *Journal of Experimental Education* 58, no. 4 (1990), 265–272.

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# How Social-Emotional Learning Affects Academic Outcomes

## Research

- Early social-emotional competencies, such as behavioral regulation, attentional skills and the ability to solve problems, are critical to children’s academic outcomes.
- Social-emotional competencies promote children’s engagement in instructional activities and the classroom setting that, in turn, enhance academic achievement.
- Children who successfully develop core social-emotional and behavioral competencies (e.g., emotional and behavioral regulation, attention skills) in preschool are more likely to successfully navigate the transition to elementary school.
- Social-emotional competence is the foundation for the achievement and well-being of young children.
- By improving children’s levels of social-emotional competence through explicit instruction, it is possible to improve their levels of social-emotional well-being and academic achievement.
- Compared to controls, SEL participants demonstrated significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behaviors, and academic performance that reflected an 11-percentile-point gain in achievement.

## Watch & Learn Connection

The Watch & Learn Library features more than 20 social-emotional learning videos to help students cultivate social skills, self-awareness, kindness, inclusiveness, manners, friendships, and more. Used to launch meaningful whole-class discussions and set the groundwork for a larger lesson, the SEL videos in the Watch & Learn Library feature children of the same age the program is serving, to help kids connect learning to their world.



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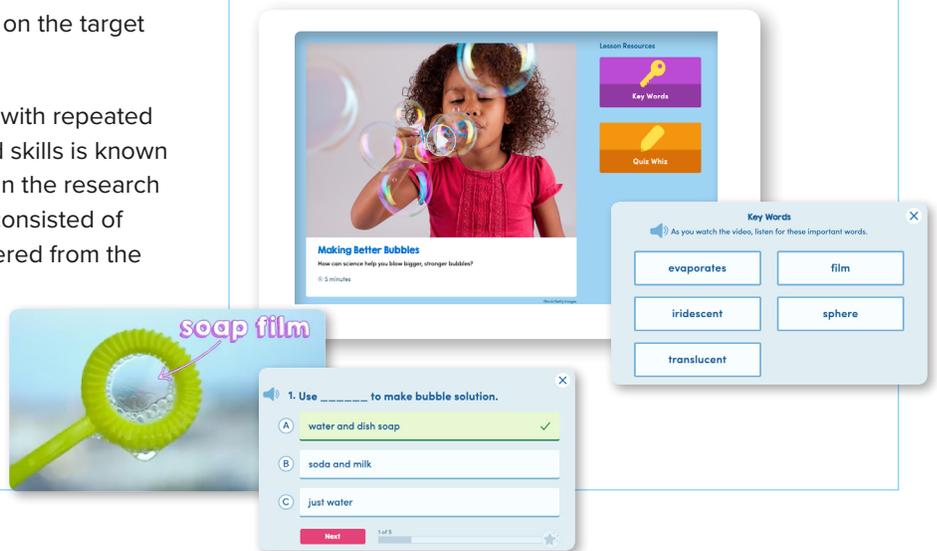
# Proven Strategies for Supporting English Learners

## Research

- Teaching with visual representations of concepts can be hugely helpful to ELLs and to all students.
- Techniques shown to be effective for ELLs included building background knowledge by previewing key vocabulary through definitions and context-rich sentences, and providing brief story introductions that included details from the story.
- Multimedia-enhanced instruction (videos used as part of lessons) helped make read-aloud vocabulary instruction more effective for ELs in preschool to second grade. ELs who saw videos as part of the vocabulary instruction learned more of the target words and made greater gains on a general vocabulary measure than those who did not. The videos helped either greatly diminish or eliminate the gap between ELs and non-ELs on the target words.
- Reinforcement of learned material with repeated exposures to words, concepts, and skills is known to effectively strengthen learning. In the research on ELLs, this reinforcement often consisted of revisiting material in ways that differed from the initial encounter.

## Watch & Learn Connection

The Watch & Learn Library is an effective resource for helping classroom teachers support their EL populations. Experts agree that incorporating visuals, allowing for repeated exposure and practice, providing opportunity to review, and building background knowledge are simple yet highly effective strategies for supporting EL populations. Videos offer ELs an additional way of accessing information they may not have the language proficiency to understand. Short videos can easily be replayed to help process and retain new information. The quizzes in the Watch & Learn Library allow students to hear the information reviewed in the video again to help solidify the lesson, while more than 230 topics provide background knowledge, which is particularly essential for ELs.



## Citations

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# Spanish Language Support

## Research

- For children whose primary language is not English, studies (Cummins, 1979) have shown that a strong basis in a first language promotes school achievement in a second language. Children who are learning English as a second language are more likely to become readers and writers of English when they are already familiar with the vocabulary and concepts in their primary language.
- Research has shown that access to information in the home language contributes to young children's progress both in their home language and in English (Espinosa, 2008).

## Watch & Learn Connection

The Watch & Learn Library is 100% equitable in English and Spanish, ensuring children can build knowledge and vocabulary in their first language. Closed captioning for all videos also supports beginning readers as they develop their literacy skills in English or Spanish.



## Citations

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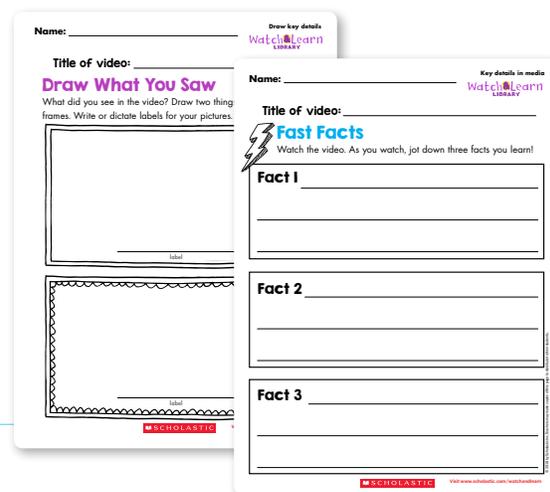
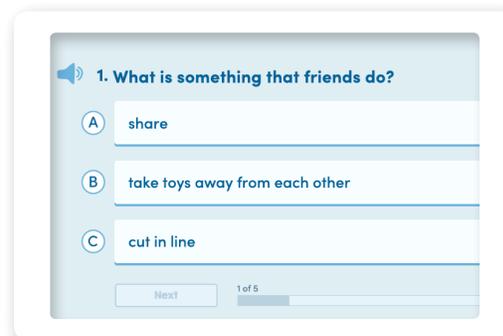
# Effectiveness of Active Listening and Hands-on Learning

## Research

- It is the deep and active processing of information that increases the likelihood of recalling it later.
- Involvement in the learning process significantly improves knowledge retention and the ability to apply that knowledge.

## Watch & Learn Connection

The Watch & Learn Library includes 12 general-use think sheets designed to set a purpose for viewing and to help keep kids focused. The think sheets are available for both pre-readers and beginning readers, in English and in Spanish. Setting a task for learning helps students activate learning, become more deeply involved in the content, and ultimately transfer knowledge from short-term memory to long term.



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