Preassessment Techniques

Boxing (What do I know?) (What else do I want to know?) (What do I want to learn?) (Visual Rep.)	On large piece of paper, students draw a box in the center, then a smaller box inside of the first box. In the outside box answer "What do I know", in the inside box answer "what do I want to learn". Now in the outside box, write "what else do I know and how does it fit? In the inside box draw a visual representation to explain the topic. Finally, in the middle of the box, look at all the information and summarize, "what does that say"
Graffiti Wall	Using markers and large poster paper have students design a graffiti wall of the things they know about a specific topic. Leave wall up, encourage students to add to the wall as their knowledge grows.
KWL Charts (and other graphic organizers)	Using Venn Diagrams to assess what the students need and want to know. Measures level of understanding.
Yes/No Cards	Students make a card with Yes (or Got it) on one side and No or (no clue) on the other side. Teachers ask introductory or review questions and students hold up cards accordingly. Effective when introducing new vocabulary

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SA/A/D/SD	Students given opportunity to express views along a continuum. Given an
Strongly Agree	issue or topic (similar to yes/no cards) students are asked to decide their
Agree	opinion ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Four corners of
Disagree	the room are labeled with these designations and students able to move to
Strongly Disagree	each corner. Class discussion follows asking students to defend their
	positions, refute arguments and/or reevaluate their opinions.
Squaring Off	Place a card in each corner of the room with the following phrases: Dirt
	Road, Paved Road, Highway, Yellow Brick Road
	Students move as a group to the corner of the room that matches where
	they are in the unit of study, discuss what they know about topic. Have
	paper available to chart responses.
Consensograms	Students place themselves on a line continuum indicating what level of
	comfort they have with the upcoming topic.
Word Splash	Content vocabulary is placed on a board, chart, large paper. Students are
	asked to use the words in a sentence, paragraph drawing or diagram. (form connections to meaning)
"Quick Writes"	Reveals a lot as a pre assessment by asking "big questions". Student
	uncover what they understand, misconceptions etc.
	They are given 1 - 3 minutes to write their answers.
Anticipation Guides (True/False, Place	Can identify misconceptions. Students make predictions based on prior
Your Bets, etc.)	knowledge. Often used as a pre reading strategy it is also effective in trying to determine the depth of student knowledge for a particular unit.

Preassessment Techniques

"Graph Me"	Students plot their knowledge on a graph. A self -assessment.
"Pass the Prose"	Similar to a quick write: in small groups student respond to question(s) or prompt(s), write for one minute then pass the paper to the next person until everyone has commented. When all have written then groups share out.
Informal surveys, questionnaires, Inventory interest, check lists	Can be self assessments or pre-designed by teacher
Open-ended questioning Question & Answer Relationship	Use a variety of questions: "Right There" - literal questions "Pulling it Together" - questions that pull together prior knowledge

Resources:

http://www.saskschools.ca/curr_content/constructivism/how/preassessment.html

http://www.wilmette39.org/DI39/DIPA/DIPA2.html

http://www.wilmette39.org/DI39/assess.html#2

http://www.flaguide.org/cat/minutepapers/minutepapers1.php

http://209.184.141.5/edtech/CMT-Help/multiple methods of assessment.htm