

# NEED TO KNOW

One of the first things that you will want to do with your students prior to them beginning their investigations is helping them uncover what they already know and need to know in order to address the driving question they are presented with.

One of our favorite strategies to do this is the "Need to Know" protocol. Similar to the KWL strategy (What do we know?, What do we wonder?, and What did we learn?), students together think through and reflect on their evolving understanding of the driving question and the significant content that they are investigating. Ideally this is something that you come back to multiple times throughout the course of a project as students learn and experience more and at deeper levels.

## **DIRECTIONS:**

In small groups, have students write out everything they know about the driving question on separate sticky notes. Afterward, have them write out everything they still need to know or uncover in order to address the driving question.

Ideally, you will keep these sets of sticky-notes available for students to reference and utilize throughout the course of the project. The list of need to knows that students develop for example could form the basis for an investigation plan for each team.

Have students return periodically throughout the project to reflect on how their understandings are evolving and what items they needed to know they now know.

