Lesson overview

Learning styles

7 Recommended: **7th grade**

Length: **70 minutes**

About this lesson

To help students understand that everybody's brain processes information in a unique way, students will discover how they learn and remember information best, explore how understanding their own learning style can help them in school and on the job, and track their use of different learning methods so they can keep exploring what works for them.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- investigate visual, auditory, and tactile learning styles
- identify preferences for how they learn and remember information best
- explore how understanding their own learning style can help them in school and at work
- review learning tips to help them track different learning methods they can use when learning something new, studying, or working in class

Driving question

How can I become a stronger independent learner?

Future-ready skills

Self-awareness | Critical thinking

Lesson breakdown

30 minutes

Activity 1: Learning style assessment

In this activity, students will be introduced to 3 learning styles before completing Xello's 20 question **Learning style** assessment where they'll discover how they learn and remember information best. They will then regroup as a class for a post-assessment discussion.

30 minutes

Activity 2: Xello lesson: Learning styles

In this activity, students will complete the **Learning styles** lesson in Xello where they will investigate visual, auditory, and tactile learning styles, and explore how understanding their own learning style can help them in school and at work.

10 minutes

Activity 3: Tracking learning methods

In this activity, students will review the learning tips of all 3 learning styles to help them identify learning methods they know work well and those they'd like to experiment with when they're learning something new, studying, or working in class.

Xello entry point

Before starting this lesson students will need to save 3 careers, and as part of the first activity students will complete the **Learning style quiz**, which are prerequisites for Xello's **Learning styles** lesson.

Vocabulary

- Learning styles
- Visual learning
- Auditory learning
- Tactile learning
- Learning methods

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Activity 1: Learning style assessment

7 Recommended: **7th grade**

Length: **30 minutes**

Inquiry prompts

- What's a learning style?
- How are visual, auditory, or tactile methods used to learn?
- How do I think knowing my learning style can help me?

Before you begin

- Decide how you will share the **Example learning methods** chart with your class.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will be introduced to 3 learning styles before completing Xello's 20 question **Learning style** quiz where they'll discover how they learn and remember information best. After students complete the quiz in Xello, regroup as a class for a post-assessment discussion.

1. Before directing your students to complete the **Learning style** quiz in Xello, engage your class in a discussion about learning styles. You may want to ask your students:
   - How do you learn something new?
   - Think about a time you learned something new. What helped you to learn the concept or skill? Do you think everyone learned it in the same way you did?
2. Share 3 lists of **Example learning methods** (A, B, and C) from the chart below and add some examples from your discussion in step 1 to the appropriate list:

   Example learning methods

A	B	C
• Read about a topic online • Look at pictures and diagrams • Highlight facts in your textbook • Limit distracting clutter	• Participate in class discussions • Read study materials out loud • Listen to a speaker in the topic • Limit distracting noises	• Practice a new activity • Build a model • Act out what you're learning • Take exercise breaks when studying

   NOTE: Do not share the learning style types until step 4.
   - A = Visual (watching and reading)
   - B = Auditory (listening and speaking)
   - C = Tactile (hands-on and physical activity)
3. Then ask your students:
   - Which list(s) best describes the way you learned the new skill or concept?

Materials required

- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will complete the **Learning style** activity in Xello and can review their results at any time from the link on their dashboard.

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Activity 1: Learning style assessment

7 Recommended: **7th grade**

Length: **30 minutes**

- Is there a time you used a learning method from one of the other lists? Why do you think a different learning method was helpful in that circumstance?

4. Finally, ask your students to identify how they think the learning methods are grouped in 3 different lists. Help them to see that when we're learning something new, studying for a test, or working in class we all need different strategies and methods to help us be successful.
5. Direct students to complete the **Learning style** quiz on Xello.
6. Then ask your students:
   - Which list(s) best describes the way you learned the new skill or concept?
   - Is there a time you used a learning method from one of the other lists? Why do you think a different learning method was helpful in that circumstance?
7. Finally, ask your students to identify how they think the learning methods are grouped in 3 different lists. Help them to see that when we're learning something new, studying for a test, or working in class we all need different strategies and methods to help us be successful.
8. Direct students to complete the **Learning style** quiz on Xello.

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Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Learning styles

7 Recommended: **7th grade**

Length: **30 minutes**

About this activity

In the first activity, students were introduced to 3 learning styles before completing Xello's 20 question **Learning Style** quiz.

In this activity, students will complete the **Learning styles** lesson in Xello. They'll learn more about visual, auditory, and tactile learning styles, and explore how understanding their own learning style can help them in school and on the job.

Inquiry prompts

- What's a learning style?
- How do you think knowing your learning style can help you?
- Do you think people can become better at learning?
- How do you feel about yourself as a learner? What are you most proud of? What would you like to improve?
- What are some obstacles you might encounter when you're learning something new? How can you overcome these challenges?

Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the Learning styles slide presentation (also available in Spanish) to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for suggested discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out Sign in to Xello for support.

Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

1. Before students start the Xello lesson, engage them in a classroom discussion using a few of the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the Learning styles slide presentation (also available in Spanish), or choose your own.
2. Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** just below the lesson shown or **View lessons** on the left of your screen.
3. Students finished early? Encourage your students to add learning-related skills to their skills section in Xello and then rate them.
4. Students can also explore their dashboard feed where they'll find new content about their updated saved careers.

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- Learning styles slide presentation (also available in Spanish)

Prerequisites

- Complete the Learning styles quiz
- Save 3 careers

Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Learning styles** .

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Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Learning styles

7 Recommended: **7th grade**

Length: **30 minutes**

5. Once all students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the Learning styles slide presentation (also available in Spanish) to have them revisit their answers to the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
6. **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion that gets each person to share their answer to the following inquiry prompt: How do you feel about yourself as a learner? What are you most proud of? What would you like to improve?

OPTIONAL: Document the responses. Do students notice any themes or similarities?

Activity 3: Tracking learning methods

7 Recommended: **7th grade**

Length: **10 minutes**

Inquiry prompts

- Do I think I can become better at learning?
- How do I feel about myself as a learner? What am I most proud of? What would I like to improve?
- What are some obstacles I encounter when I'm learning something new? How can I overcome these challenges?

Before you begin

- Review the **Teaching strategies** below and decide how you will share your class' **Learning style** quiz results and the Learning style tips checklist with them.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will review the learning tips of all 3 learning styles to help them identify learning methods they know work well and those they'd like to experiment with when they're learning something new, studying, or working in class.

1. Display, screen capture, or export your class' **Learning style** quiz results to demonstrate the variety of learning preferences in your class.

   NOTE: You can find the results under the **Student work reports** in your Xello educator account. Select to display the results by **Learning style** and then filter the report to just show your students by applying your student group. If you haven't created a group in Xello, you can do so under the **Students** menu.

   Explain to your students that how we learn can change over time, and it would be worth retaking the **Learning style** quiz over the course of their educational journey to really understand their learning preferences. Also, tracking learning methods that work well for them can help them to become stronger independent learners.

2. Open the Learning style tips checklist (also available in Spanish). Make a copy or download to edit and distribute to your students. Included on the checklist are these instructions:

Your learning style can't tell you what classes you'll get good grades in, and it doesn't reflect your ability to learn. But there are many ways you can tap into your preferred learning style to help you when you're studying or working in class. You may already have a good idea of what techniques work best for you.

When you study for a big test or learn how to play a new game, you may want to try a new method related to your style or experiment with methods from a different style.

Start by keeping track of the methods you like, so you can use them again, and keep exploring different learning methods, and see what works best for you!

Materials required

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Learning style tips checklist (also available in Spanish)

Artifacts

Students will upload their Learning style tips checklist to a Xello **Portfolio** and include a short reflection to explain why it's important to them to keep exploring different learning methods.

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Activity 3: Tracking learning methods

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Length: **30 minutes**

1. Review the learning tips and mark off those you've tried and liked
2. Add other learning tips to the checklist you know work well for you.
3. Identify new methods you'd like to explore for 3 learning situations:
   - Learning something new in school
   - Studying for a test
   - Working in class to practice a skill

   For one of the learning situations above, create a **Goal** in Xello. On your student dashboard, from under **Plans**, select **Goals** and then click **Add a goal**. The title of your goal should be the situation you chose (i.e. Learn something new in school). For Step 2, choose **Academic** for the category. Once you've created the goal, in the **Notes** section, write the methods you plan to explore for the situation.
4. Create a Xello **Portfolio** and upload the checklist. On your student dashboard, select **Portfolios**, then **Add portfolio**. Title your portfolio **Tracking learning methods** and include a short reflection in the description box that answers the question: **Why is this important to you?** Select **Create portfolio.** Add a section to your portfolio using the title **Learning style tips checklist.** Select **External media** and upload your **Learning style tips checklist.** Now, add another section to your portfolio, title it Learning methods goal, select **Xello activities** in Step 2, and then add the goal you just made to your portfolio.
5. Revisit this list at any time to track new learning methods you've tried and liked.

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