Think-Write-Pair-Share

Students are given a concept or problem to *think* about silently, on their own for a moment and *write* what comes to mind about the concept or problem (keep that fairly open - knowledge they have about it, questions they have about it, etc). Give them a moment to do this (be patient so they can get the creative juices flowing). Once everyone has something written they can *pair* up (people in front of them, beside them or you can pair them up in a number of different ways). The students should *share* what they are thinking about it, what they have written about it. You may wrap the activity up in a couple different ways - either having pairs join another pair to share and increasingly getting larger and larger groups or you can discuss the knowledge and questions in the larger class setting with students volunteering or hearing from each pair/group if size and time allow.