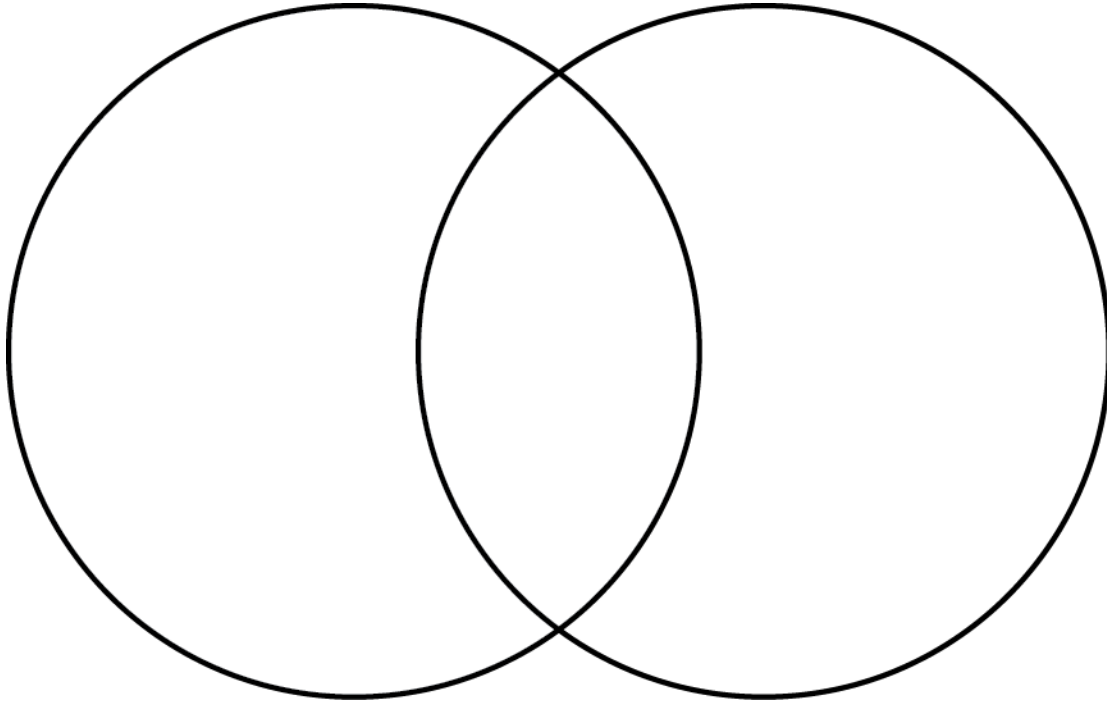# Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are an excellent way to record and organize information. Rather than simply taking notes or copying definitions, graphic organizers allow you organize information in a way that makes sense to you. This helps you process, comprehend, and remember the information later.

When using graphic organizers, always remember to:

- Record information in your OWN words. This helps you process and recall the information.
- Choose the appropriate graphic organizer for the lesson that you are working on. You may want to choose more than one.
- Get creative. Use shapes, colors, arrows, and any other graphics you can think of to personalize and make sense of the information.
- Add images whenever possible to provide visual cues.
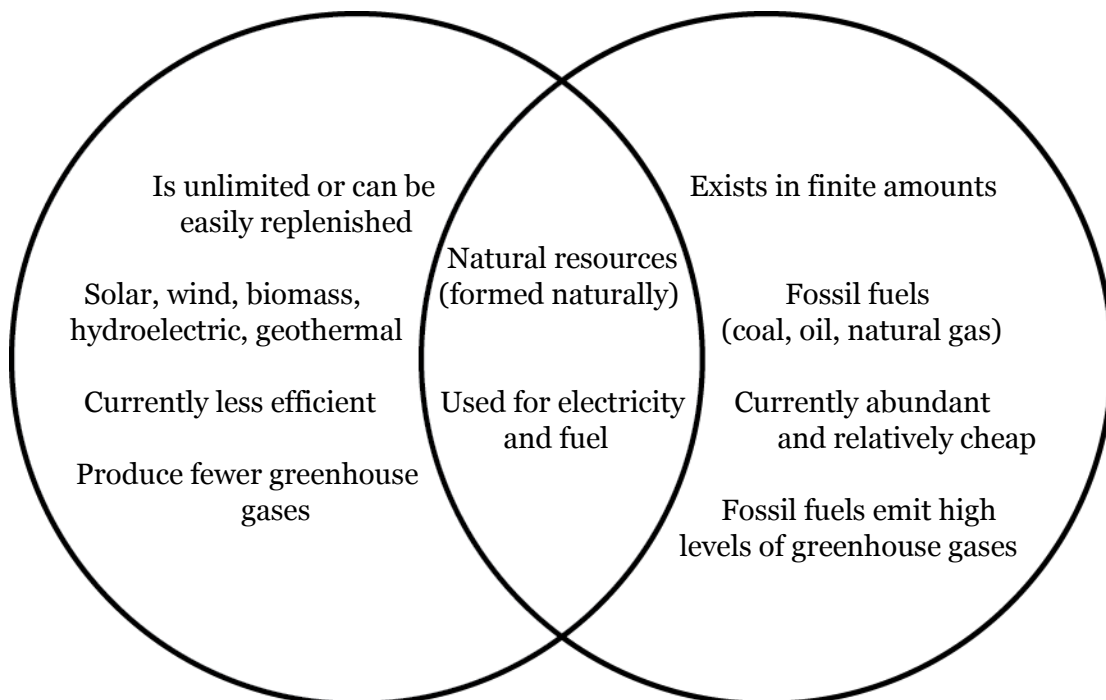
Venn Diagram (2 concepts)

Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast two vocabulary words or concepts. Include definitions, examples, and unique characteristics of each concept in the section on the left and right. Then, record common characteristics in the overlapping section.

Example

Renewable Energy   **Nonrenewable Energy**

Is unlimited or can be easily replenished

Solar, wind, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal

Currently less efficient

Produce fewer greenhouse gases

Natural resources (formed naturally)

Used for electricity and fuel

Exists in finite amounts

Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas)

Currently abundant and relatively cheap

Fossil fuels emit high levels of greenhouse gases

Venn Diagram (3 concepts)

Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast three vocabulary words or concepts. Include definitions, examples, and unique characteristics of each concept in the section on the left, right, and bottom. Then, record common characteristics in the overlapping sections.
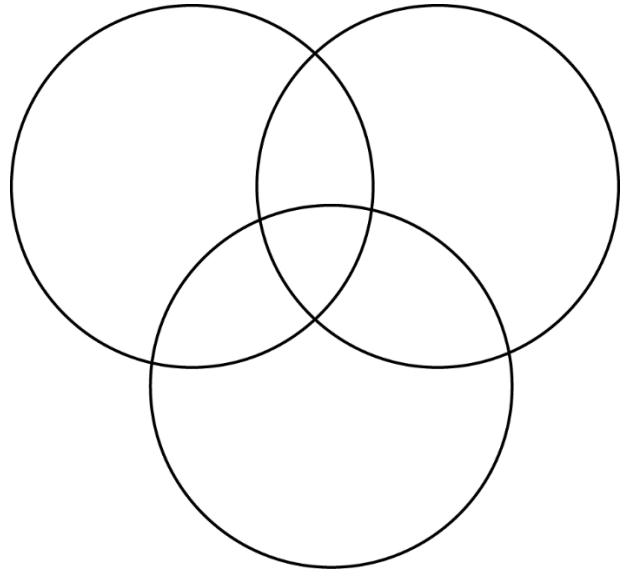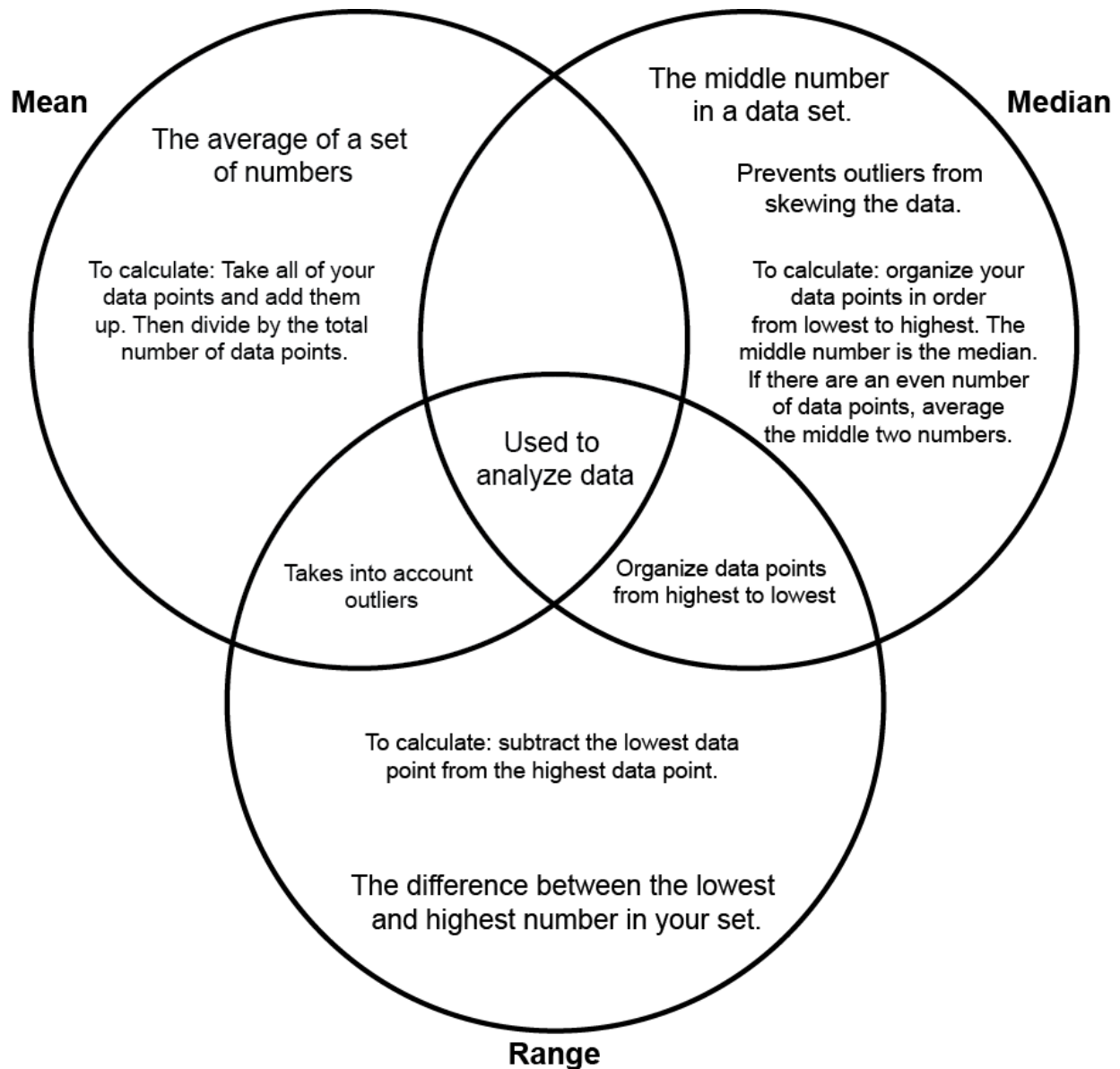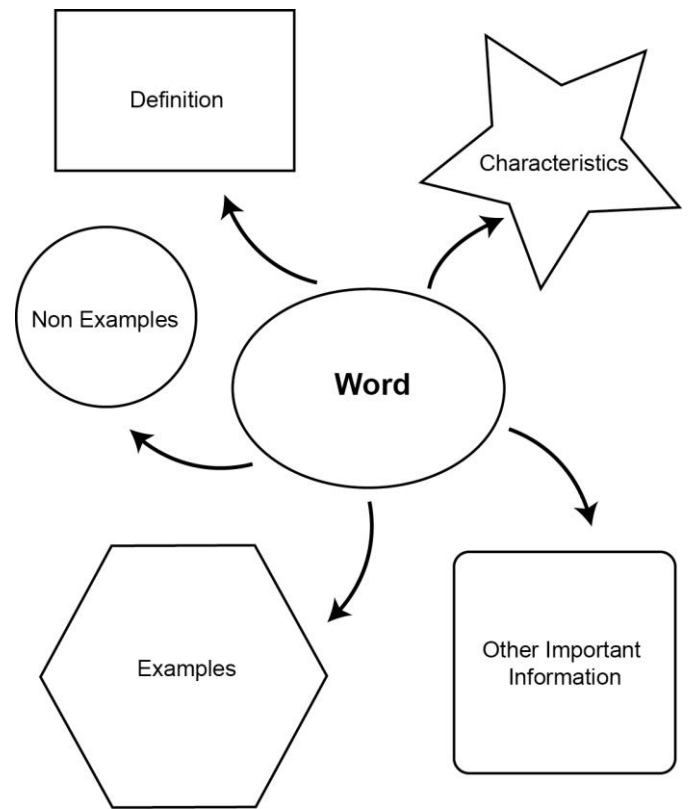
<u>Example</u>

Mean

The average of a set of numbers

To calculate: Take all of your data points and add them up. Then divide by the total number of data points.

The middle number in a data set.

Median

Prevents outliers from skewing the data.

To calculate: organize your data points in order from lowest to highest. The middle number is the median. If there are an even number of data points, average the middle two numbers.

Used to analyze data

Takes into account outliers

Organize data points from highest to lowest

To calculate: subtract the lowest data point from the highest data point.

The difference between the lowest and highest number in your set.
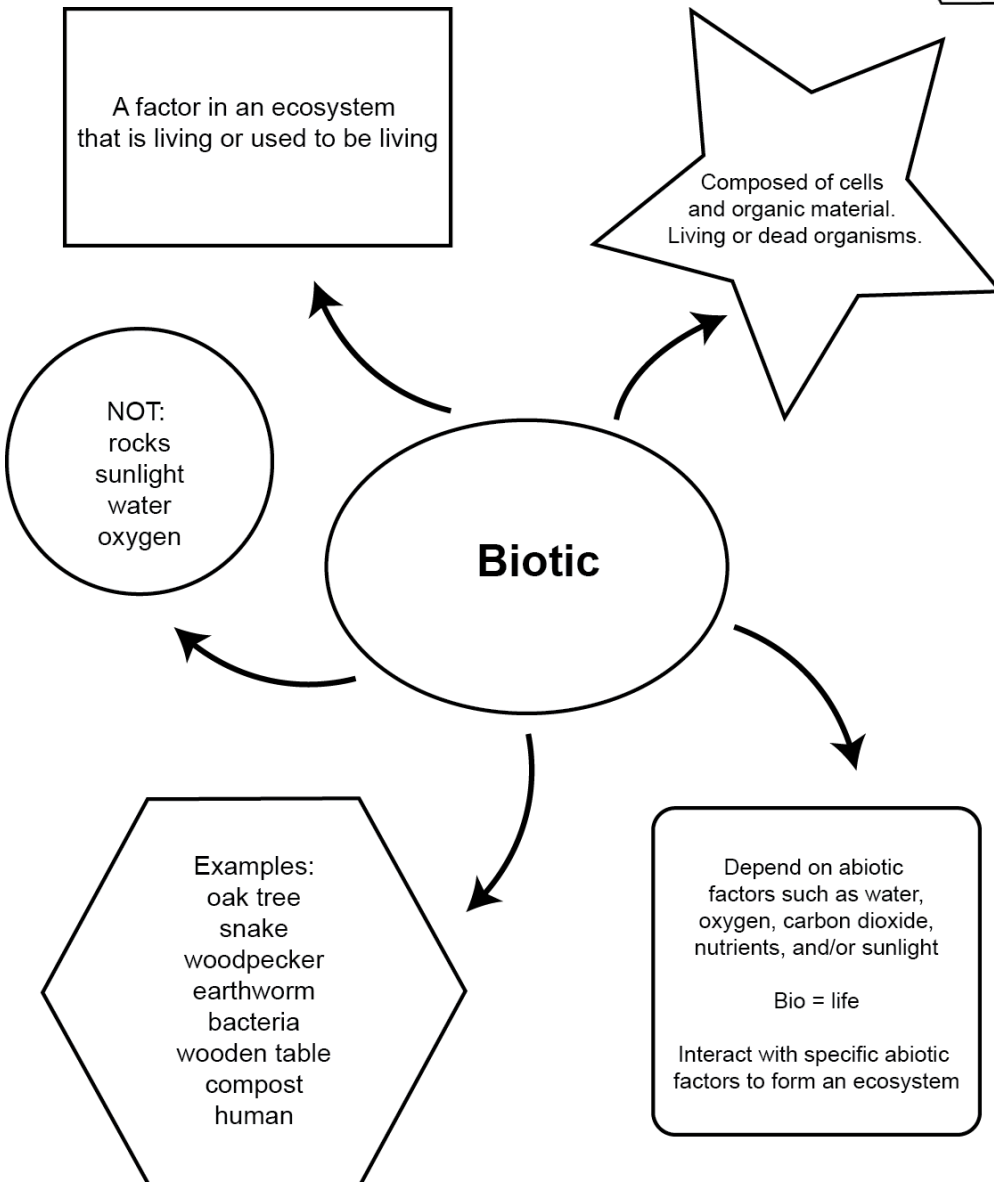
Range

Word Map

Word maps help you organize information about a single word or concept in a visual, creative way. Write the word in the center of the page and then use shapes and arrows to record the definition, defining characteristics, examples, non-examples, images, and/or any other information that you think is important.

Definition

Characteristics

Non Examples

Word

Examples

Other Important Information

Example

A factor in an ecosystem that is living or used to be living

Composed of cells and organic material. Living or dead organisms.

NOT:
rocks
sunlight
water
oxygen

Biotic

Examples:
oak tree
snake
woodpecker
earthworm
bacteria
wooden table
compost
human

Depend on abiotic factors such as water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients, and/or sunlight

Bio = life

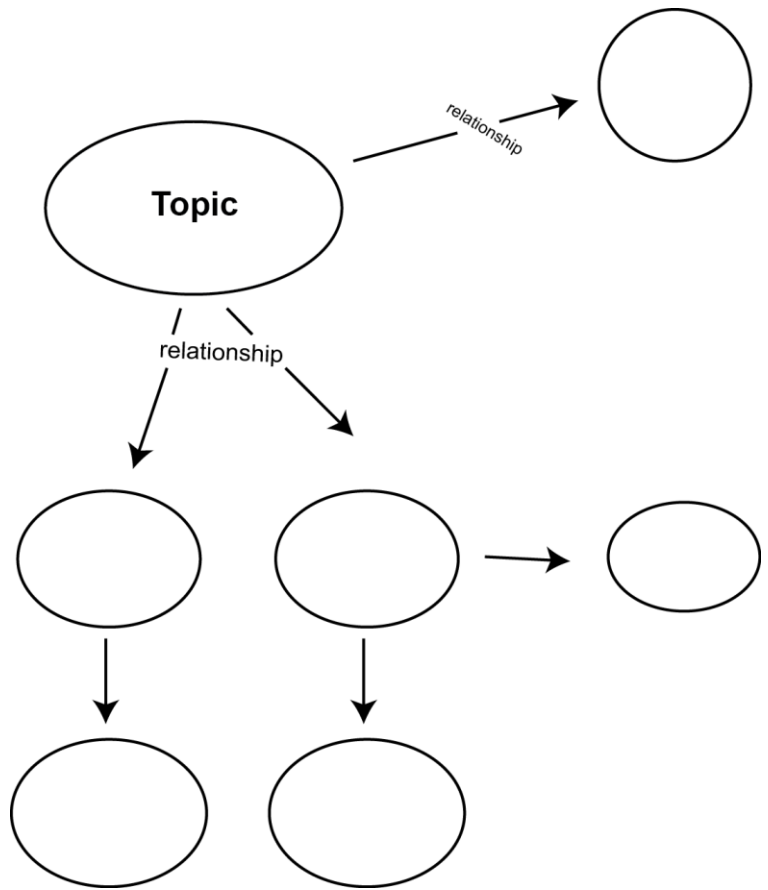Interact with specific abiotic factors to form an ecosystem

Tables

Tables allow you to organize several different words or concepts based on specific characteristics including (but not limited to) definitions, examples, advantages, and disadvantages. This helps you to compare and contrast words that are related but distinct.

<u>Example</u>

Forms of Government				
Form of government	Who controls the government? How?	Examples	Advantages	Disadvantages
Monarchy				
Democracy				
Dictatorship				
Communism				
Anarchy				

Concept Map

Concept maps allow you to organize and make sense of the relationships between a variety of different words and concepts. This is a great tool to review complex information from a lesson or unit.

Example