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 to 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renewable Energy</th>
<th>Nonrenewable Energy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is unlimited or can be easily replenished</td>
<td>Exists in finite amounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar, wind, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal</td>
<td>Natural resources (formed naturally)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently less efficient</td>
<td>Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce fewer greenhouse gases</td>
<td>Used for electricity and fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Currently abundant and relatively cheap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fossil fuels emit high levels of greenhouse gases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Example

**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.

Takes into account outliers

**Median**

The middle number in a data set.

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.

Organize data points from highest to lowest

**Range**

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

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

**Example**

Biotic

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

**Not:**
- rocks
- sunlight
- water
- oxygen

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

Definition

Characteristics

Non Examples

Examples

Other Important Information

Example
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of government</th>
<th>Who controls the government? How?</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anarchy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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