Using Graphic Organizers for Visual Learning & Thinking

Uses of Organizers

- Brainstorming
- Classifying
- Compare and Contrast
- Cause and Effect
- Planning
- Organizing information
- Outlining
- Prewriting
- Diagramming
- Concept Mapping
- Webbing

Types of Organizers

- Web
  show definitions, attributes, examples, analyzing stories and characterization, brainstorming related to a single topic, concept, or theme in the center

- Idea map
  generate ideas and develop thoughts visually in a hierarchical format; use for brainstorming, planning

- Concept map
  illustrate relationships between concepts and ideas; concepts are linked by words that describe their connections

- Chart/Matrix
  show attributes, comparing and contrasting, and evaluating

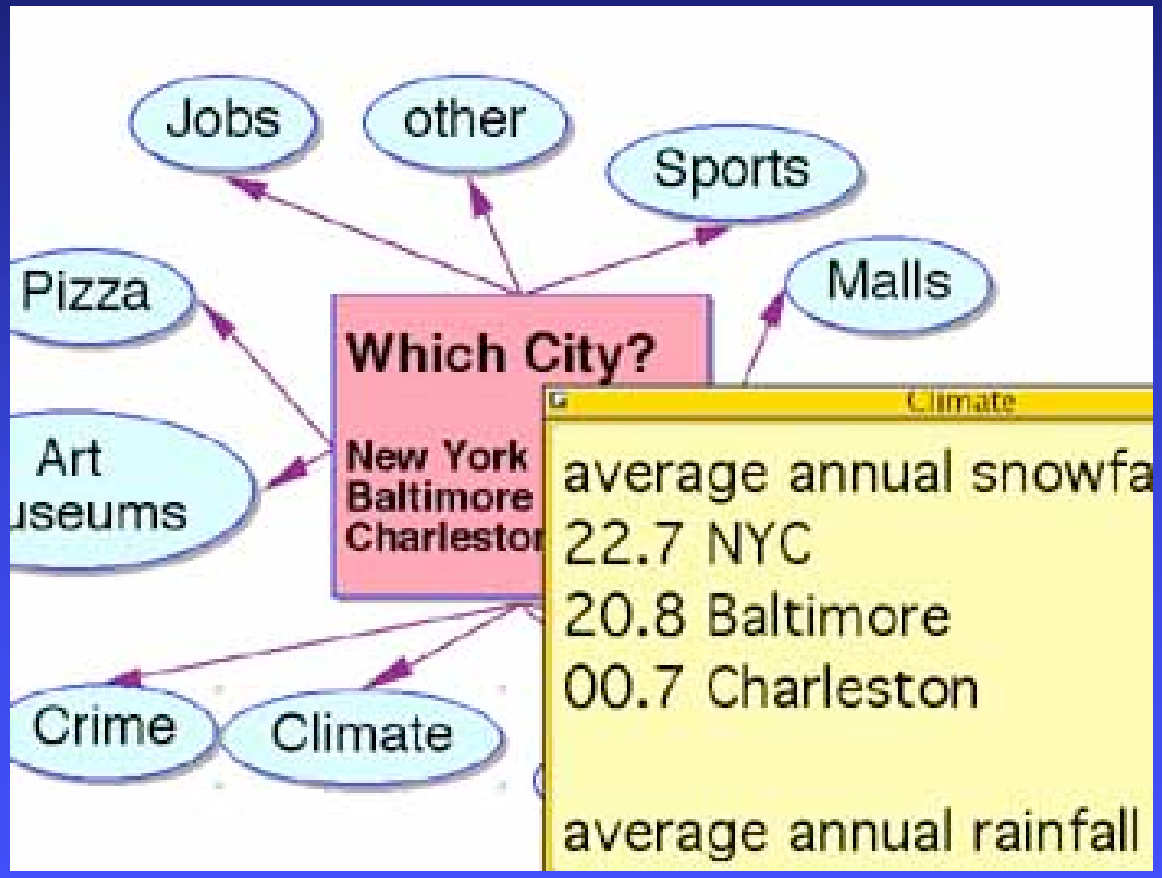
Types of Organizers

- Flowchart
  show classifications, sequences
- Tree/Map
  show classifications, pedigrees, analysis, structures, attributes, examples, and brainstorming
- Chain
  show processes, sequences, causes and effects, and chronology
- Sketch
  show physical structures, descriptions of places, spatial relationships, concrete objects, and visual images

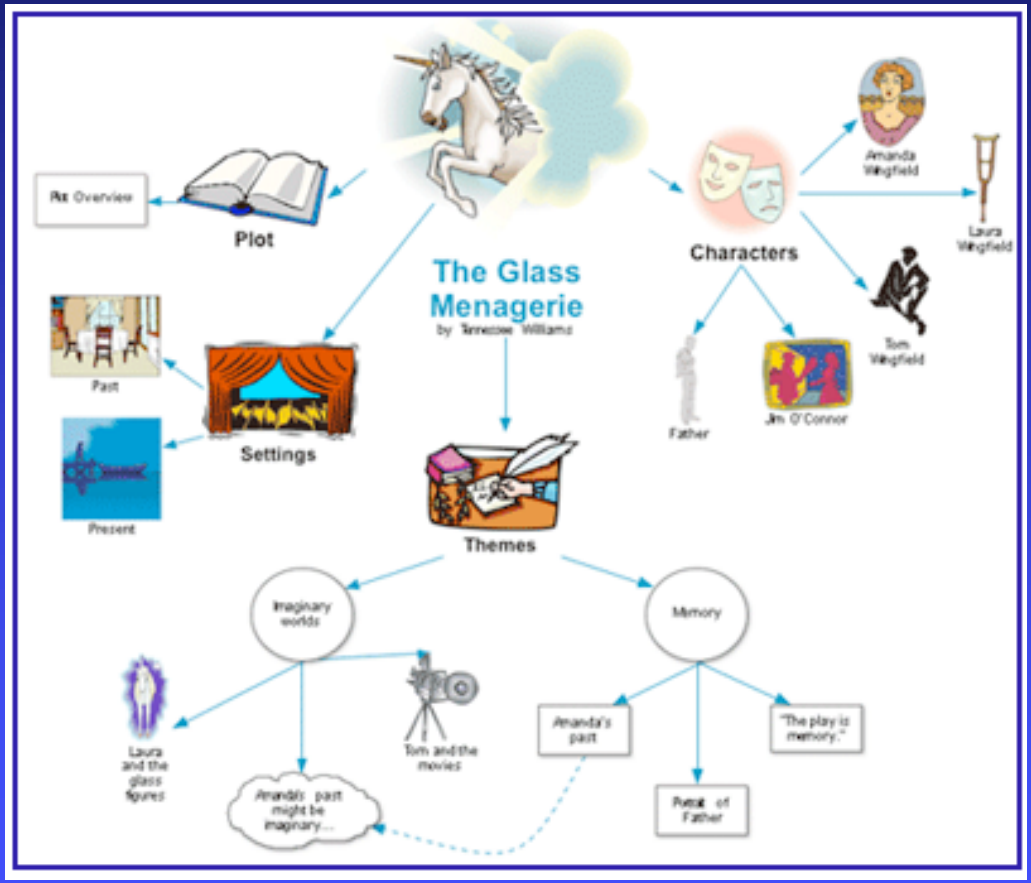
Graphic Organizers

- http://www.graphic.org/goindex.html

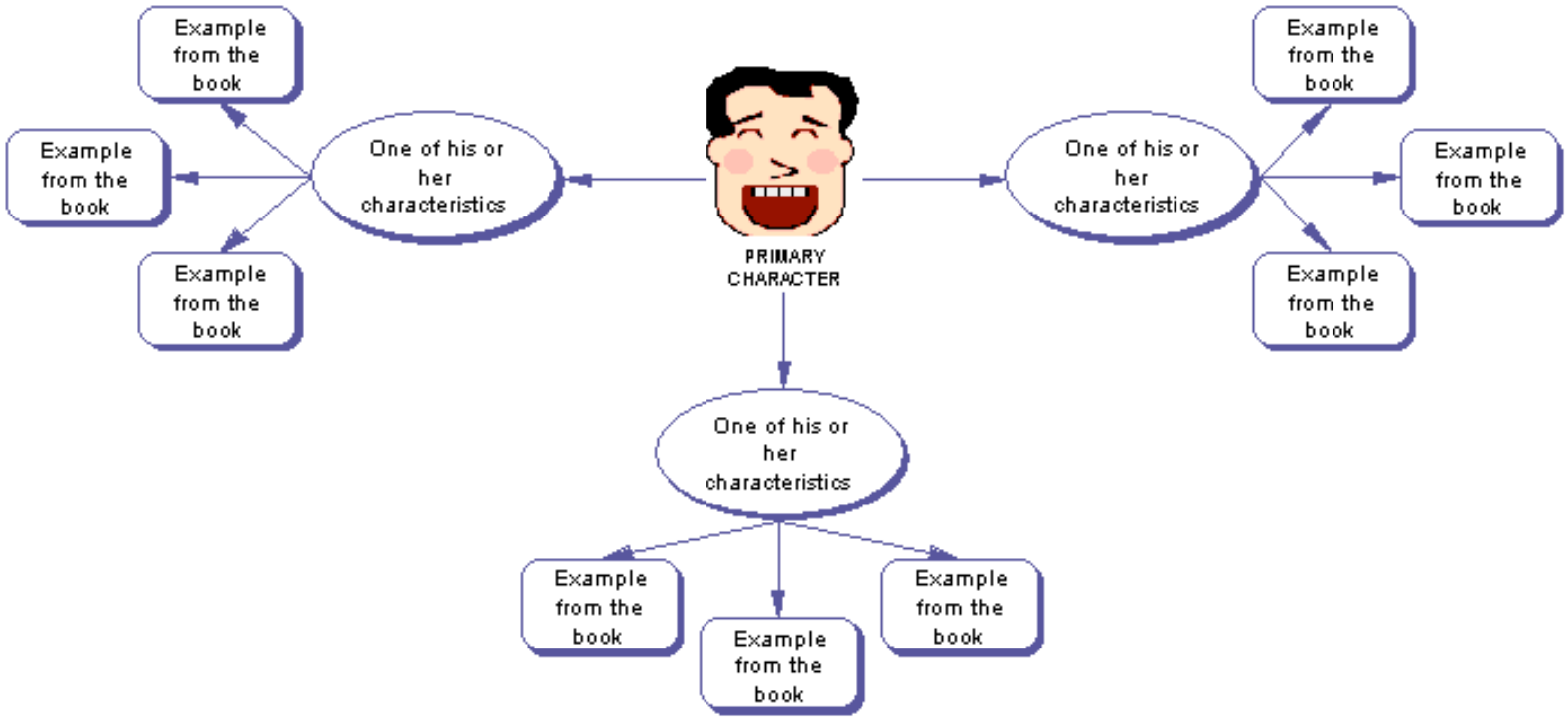
Star / Web


Jobs
other
Sports
Pizza
Malls
Which City?
New York
Baltimore
Charlestor
Art
useums
Climate
average annual snowfa
22.7 NYC
20.8 Baltimore
00.7 Charleston
average annual rainfall
Crime
Climate

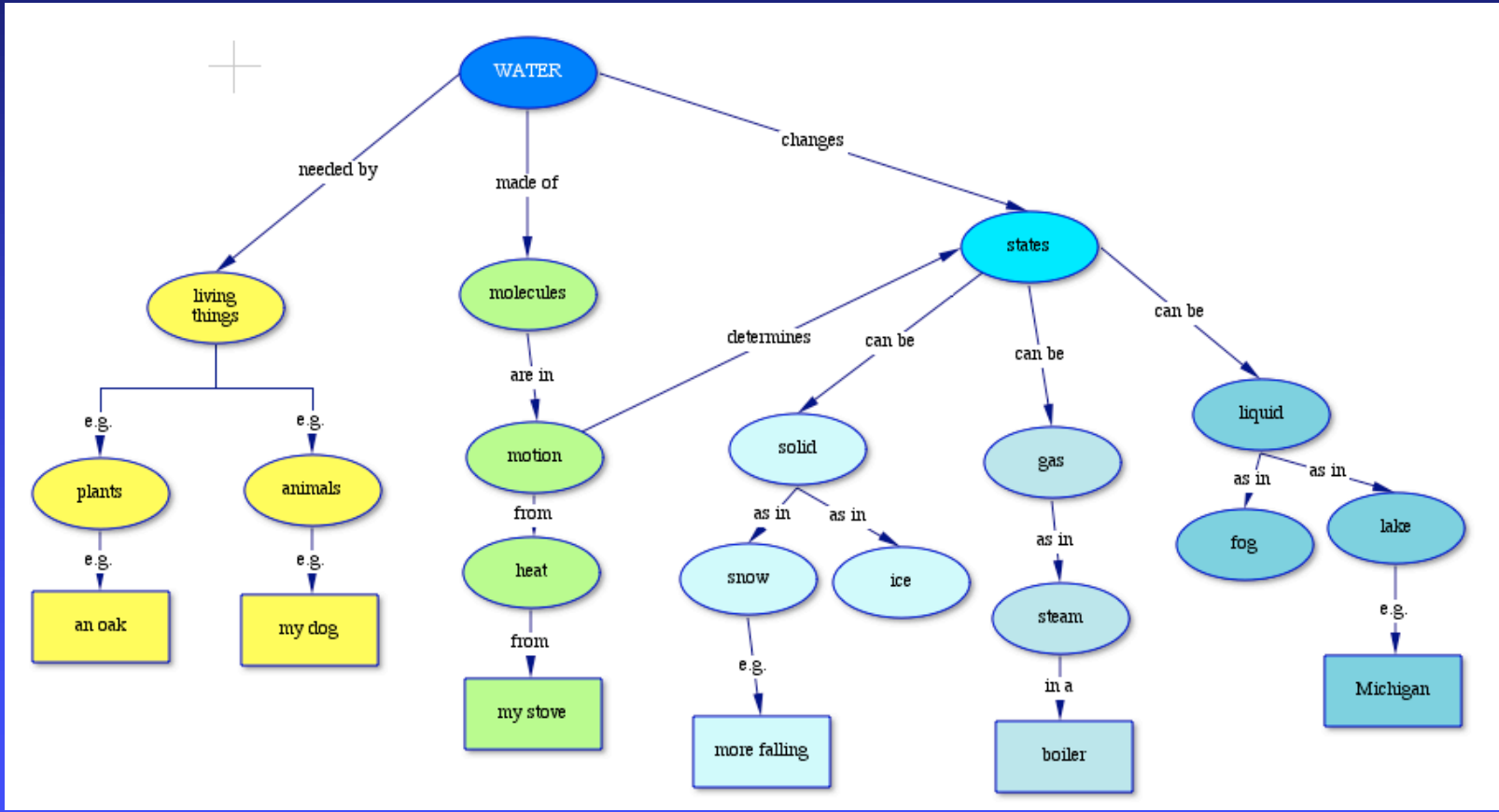
Web


The Glass Menagerie
by Tennessee Williams
Plot
Characters
Settings
Themes
Past
Present
Amanda Wingfield
Laura Wingfield
Tom Wingfield
Jim O'Connor
Father
Imaginary worlds
Memory
Laura and the glass figures
Tom and the movies
Amanda's past
"The play is memory."

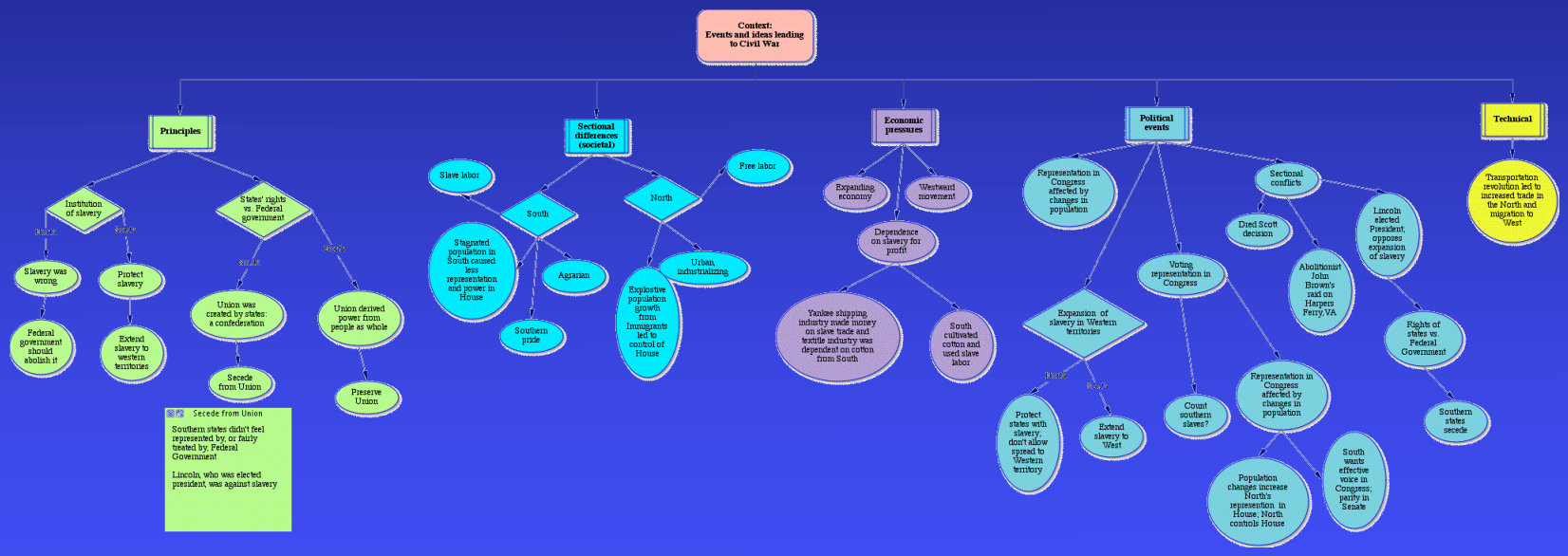
Web


Example from the book
Example from the book
Example from the book
One of his or her characteristics
PRIMARY CHARACTER
One of his or her characteristics
Example from the book
Example from the book
Example from the book
One of his or her characteristics
Example from the book
Example from the book
Example from the book

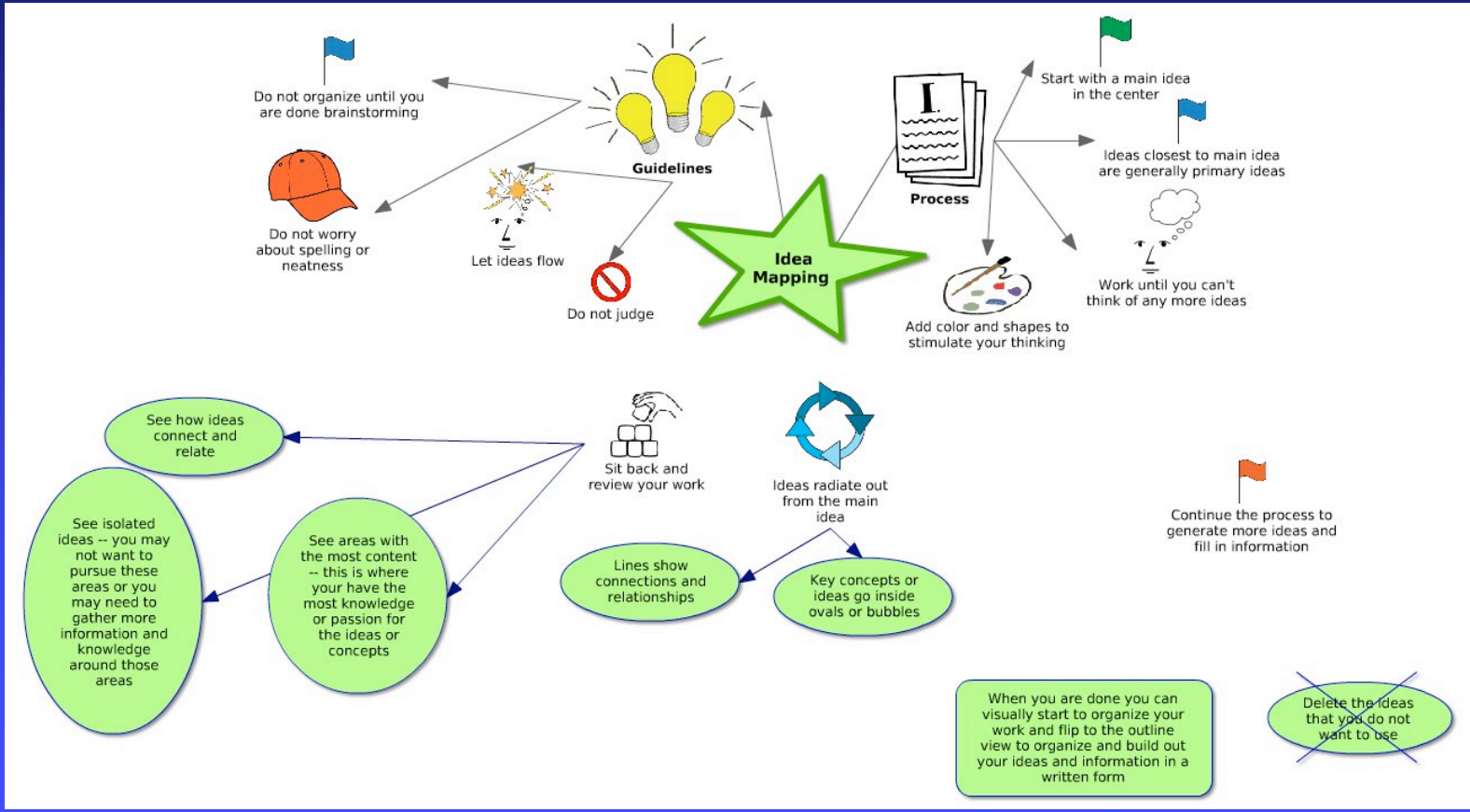
Concept Map


WATER
needed by
made of
changes
living things
molecules
states
e.g.
e.g.
plants
animals
e.g.
e.g.
an oak
my dog
are in
motion
from
heat
from
my stove
determines
can be
can be
can be
solid
gas
liquid
as in
as in
as in
as in
as in
snow
ice
steam
fog
lake
e.g.
e.g.
in a
e.g.
more falling
boiler
Michigan

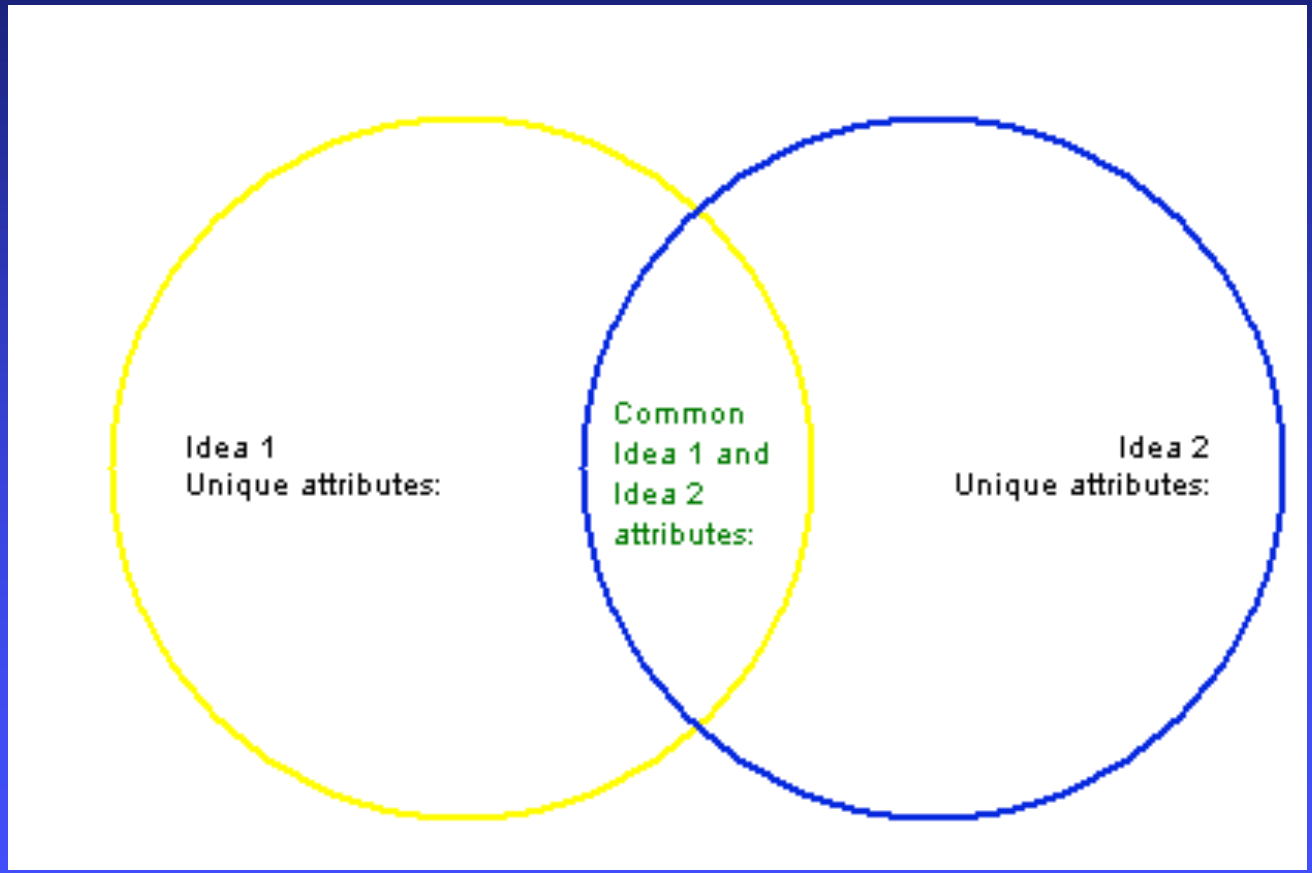
Web


Context: Events and ideas leading to Civil War
Principles
Institution of slavery
States' rights vs. Federal government
Slavery was wrong
Protect slavery
Federal government should abolish it
Extend slavery to western territories
Union was created by states: a confederation
Union derived power from people as whole
Secede from Union
Preserve Union
Secede from Union
Southern states didn't feel represented by, or fairly treated by, Federal Government
Lincoln, who was elected president, was against slavery
Sectional differences (societal)
Slave labor
South
North
Free labor
Stagnated population in South caused less representation and power in House
Agrarian
Southern pride
Explosive population growth from Immigrants led to control of House
Urban, industrializing
Economic pressures
Expanding economy
Westward movement
Dependence on slavery for profit
Yankee shipping industry made money on slave trade and textile industry was dependent on cotton from South
South cultivated cotton and used slave labor
Political events
Representation in Congress affected by changes in population
Sectional conflicts
Dred Scott decision
Lincoln elected President; opposes expansion of slavery
Abolitionist John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, VA
Voting representation in Congress
Expansion of slavery in Western territories
Protect states with slavery, don't allow spread to Western territory
Extend slavery to West
Count southern slaves?
Representation in Congress affected by changes in population
Population changes increase North's representation in House; North controls House
South wants effective voice in Congress; parity in Senate
Rights of states vs. Federal Government
Southern states secede
Technical
Transportation revolution led to increased trade in the North and migration to West

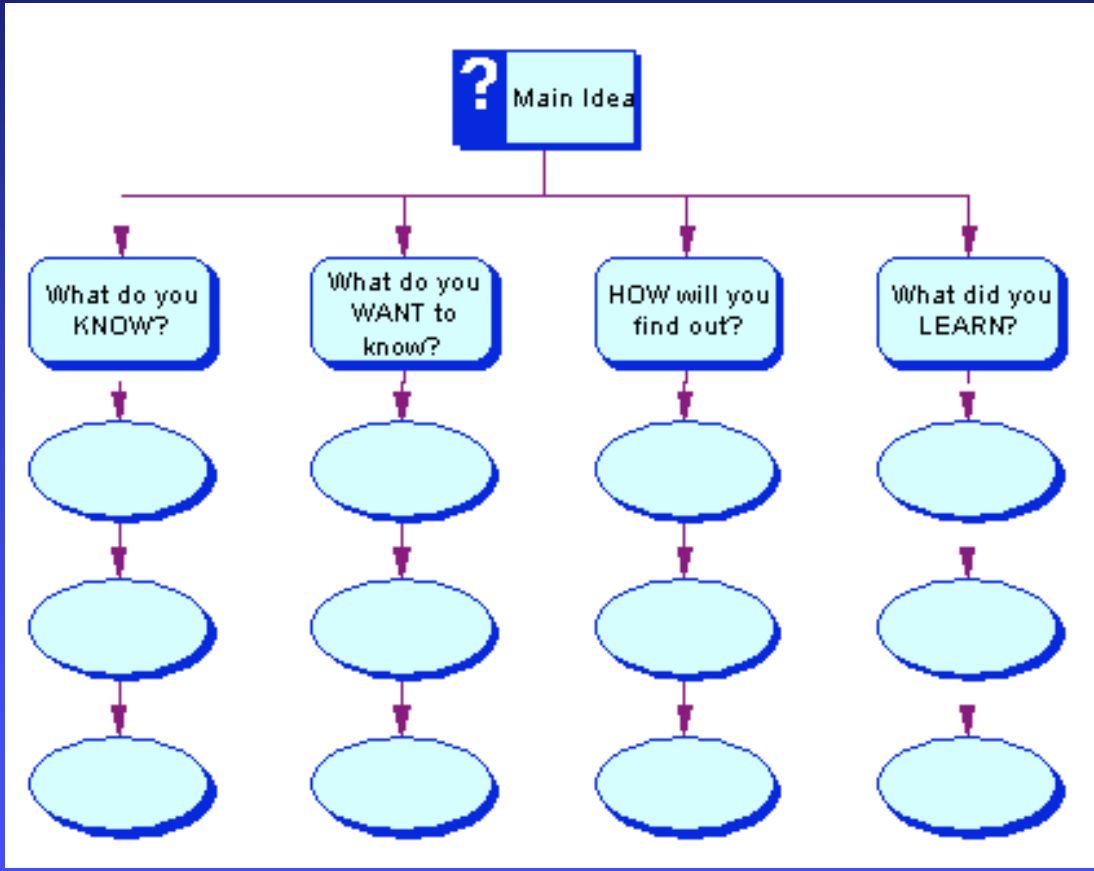
Idea Map


Idea Mapping
Guidelines
Do not organize until you are done brainstorming
Do not worry about spelling or neatness
Let ideas flow
Do not judge
Process
Start with a main idea in the center
Ideas closest to main idea are generally primary ideas
Work until you can't think of any more ideas
Add color and shapes to stimulate your thinking
Sit back and review your work
See how ideas connect and relate
See isolated ideas -- you may not want to pursue these areas or you may need to gather more information and knowledge around those areas
See areas with the most content -- this is where your have the most knowledge or passion for the ideas or concepts
Ideas radiate out from the main idea
Lines show connections and relationships
Key concepts or ideas go inside ovals or bubbles
Continue the process to generate more ideas and fill in information
When you are done you can visually start to organize your work and flip to the outline view to organize and build out your ideas and information in a written form
Delete the ideas that you do not want to use

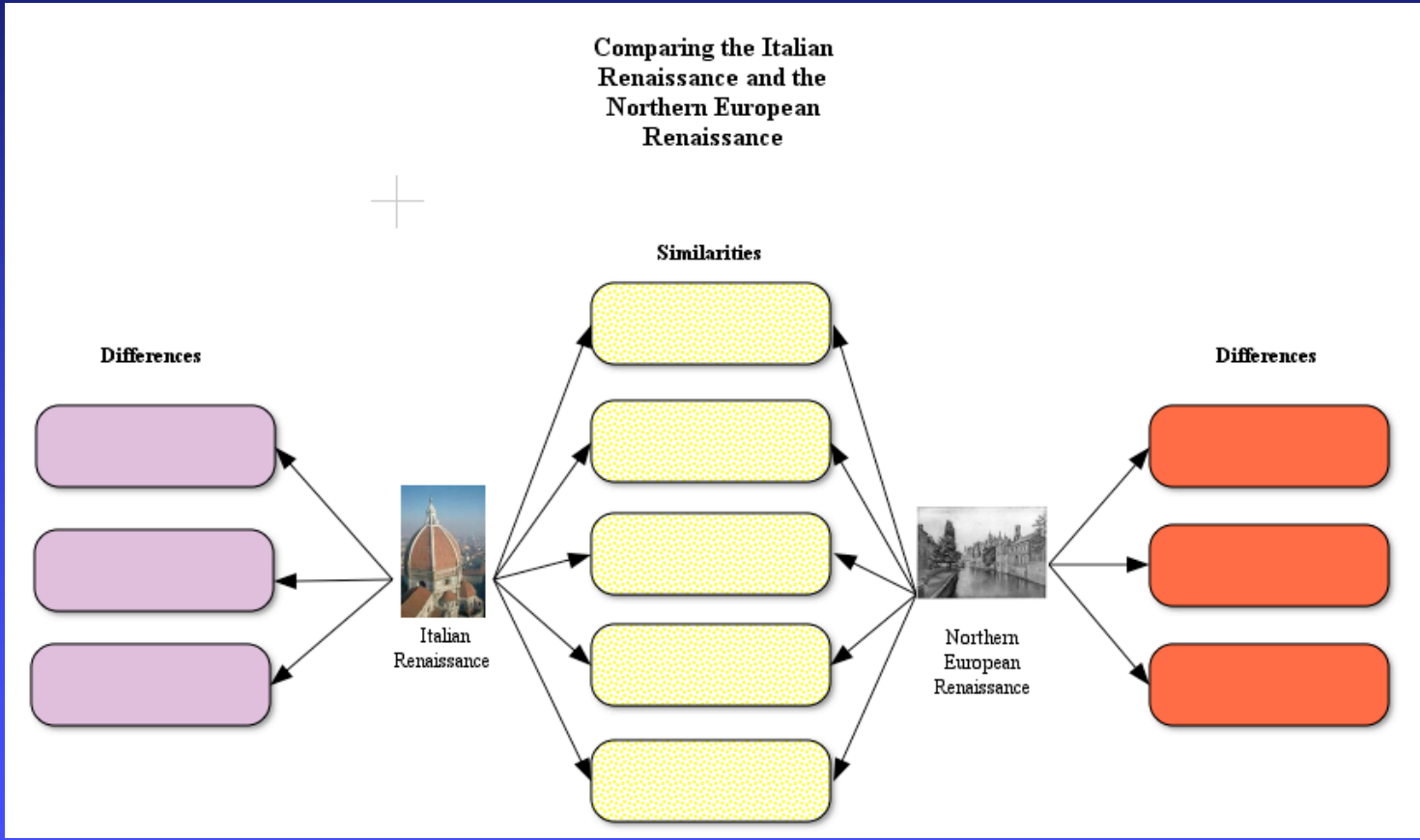
Chart


Idea 1
Unique attributes:
Common
Idea 1 and
Idea 2
attributes:
Idea 2
Unique attributes:

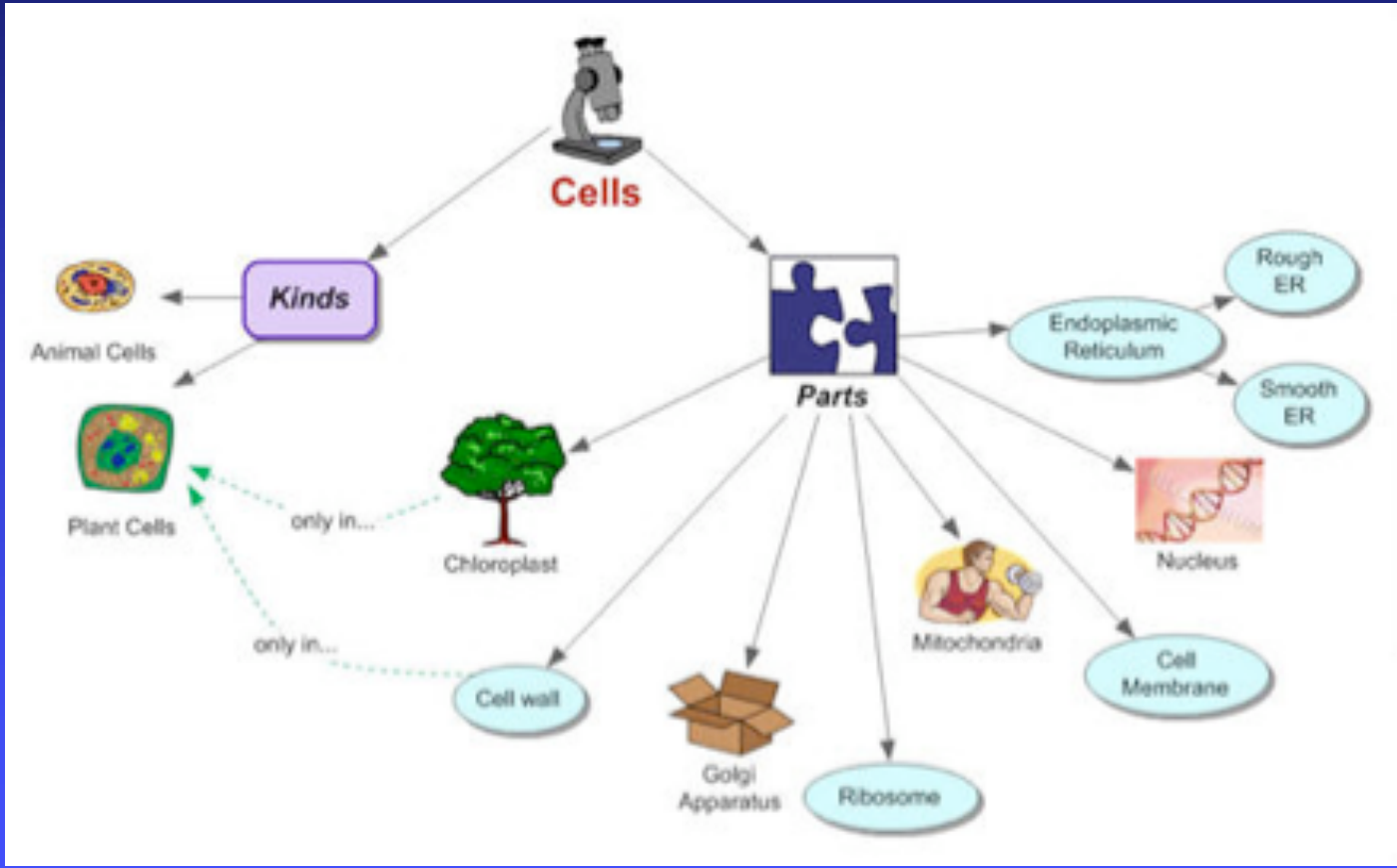
Chart


Main Idea
What do you KNOW?
What do you WANT to know?
HOW will you find out?
What did you LEARN?

Comparison


Comparing the Italian Renaissance and the Northern European Renaissance
Similarities
Differences
Differences
Italian Renaissance
Northern European Renaissance

Tree


Cells
Kinds
Animal Cells
Plant Cells
only in...
only in...
Parts
Chloroplast
Cell wall
Golgi Apparatus
Ribosome
Mitochondria
Nucleus
Cell Membrane
Endoplasmic Reticulum
Rough ER
Smooth ER

Web-Based Graphic Organizers

- Bubbl.us
- Creately
- DropMind
- Gliffy
- MindMeister
- Mind42
- SimplyBox for Education
- Webspiration
- WordSift