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How to Use Graphic Organizers

What is a Graphic Organizer?

A graphic organizer (*aka a map OR word web)* is usually a one-page form with blank areas for the student to fill in with related ideas and information. Some organizers are very specific; others can be used with many topics. For the most part, the information on a graphic organizer could just as easily be filled in on a form or written as a list. The organizer gives the child another way to see the information. Some of the organizers allow for the information to be written or drawn, opening the activity up to younger grades.

Using a Graphic Organizer

Many of the organizers on our site are designed for general use. To keep things flexible, most directions and labels on the organizers do not give many details for how to use it. When a child first uses one kind of organizer, it is recommended that a sample organizer be drawn on the board for the class to fill in together. This also gives the opportunity for children to understand that sometimes there might be more answers than there are spaces on the organizer.

You can fill in part of the organizer or add specific directions before photocopying it for the class.

Graphic organizers can be used to reinforce topics from any subject. See the examples below for some ideas to get you started. Enjoy!

These are just a few of the many ways organizers can be used.

Math

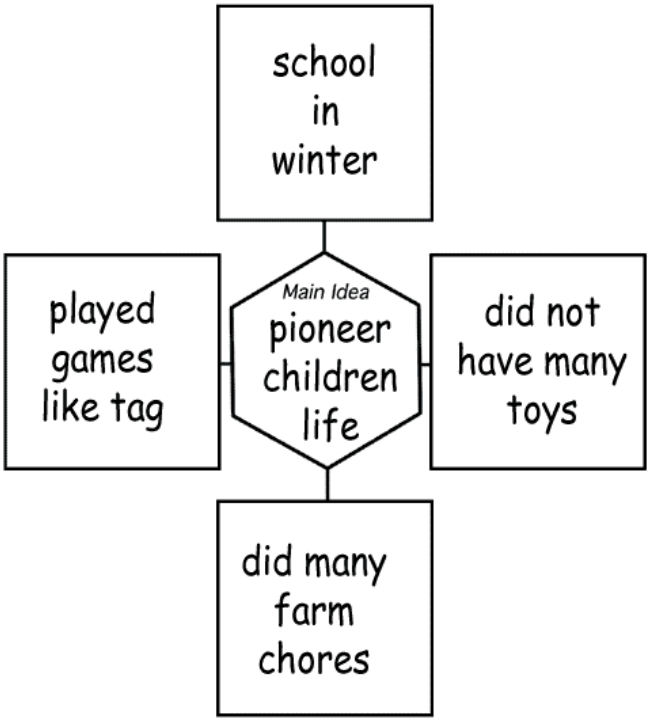
Name _____ Date _____

What I know	What I have to find out
10 like cats 15 like dogs 32 in class	How many students favorite animal is NOT a dog or cat
Finding out	**What I learned**
10 + 15 = 25 32 - 25 = 7	Seven students have a favorite animal that is not a dog or cat.

Social Studies

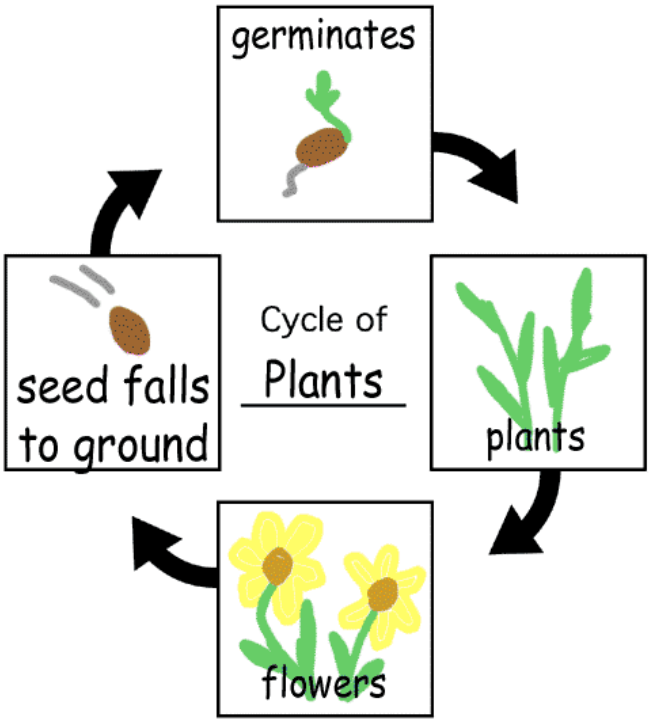
Name _____ Date _____

Put the main idea in the center, and related items in the boxes



Science

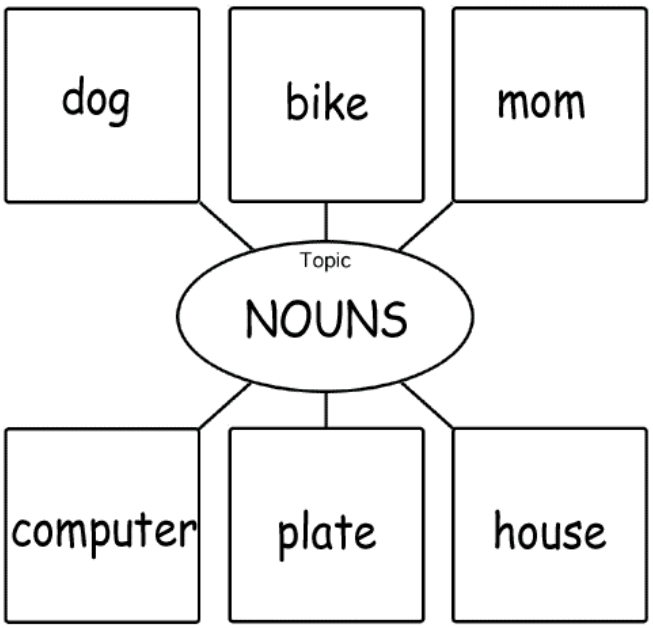
Name _____ Date _____



Language Arts

Name _____ Date _____

Put the main topic or idea in the center oval.
Put related items in each box.



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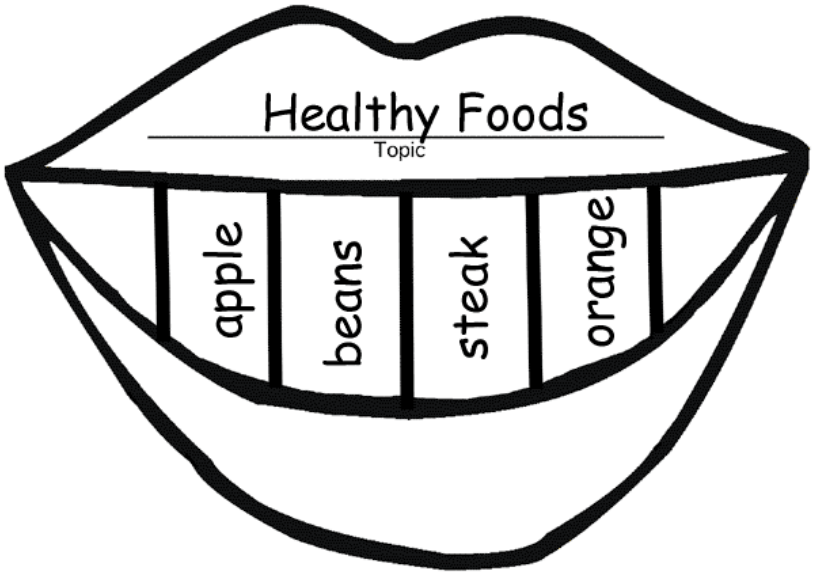
Health

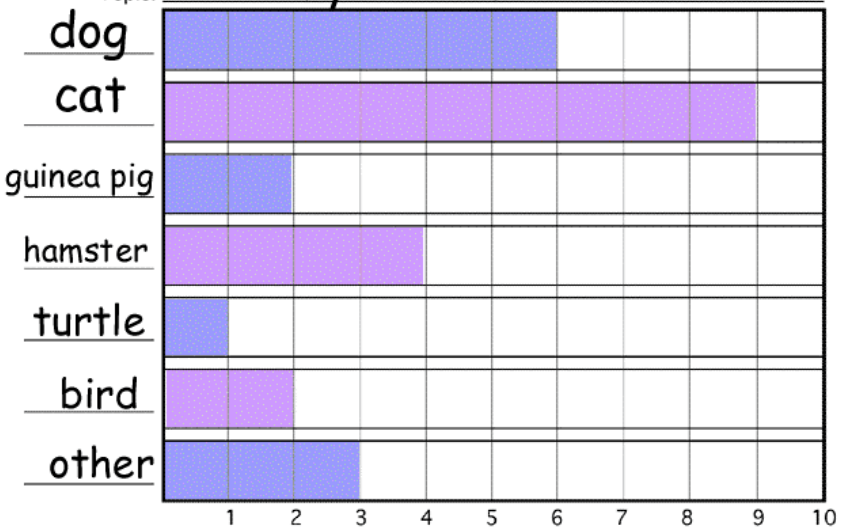
Name _____ Date _____



Math

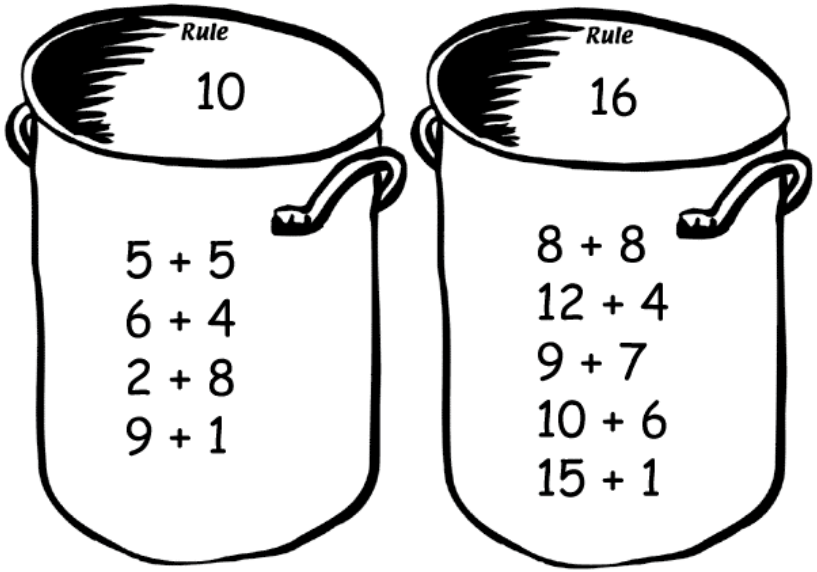
Name _____ Date _____

Topic: Pets my classmates have



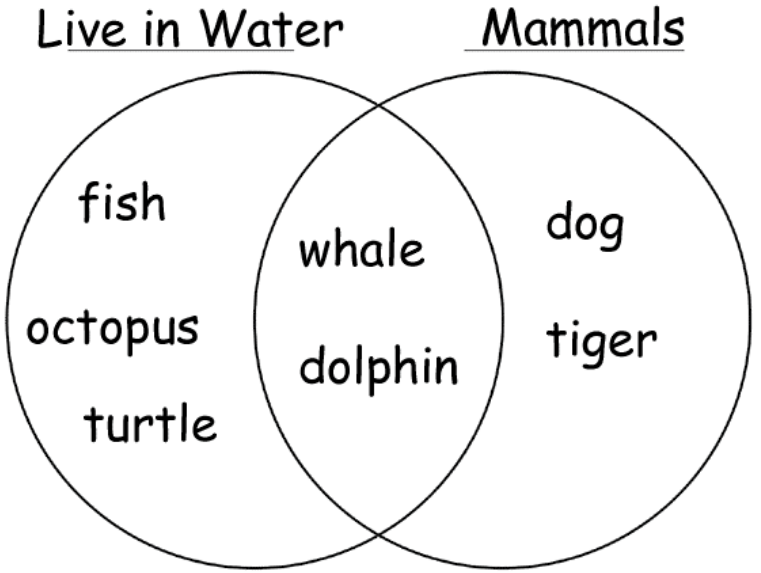
Math

Name _____ Date _____



Science

Name _____ Date _____



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Literature

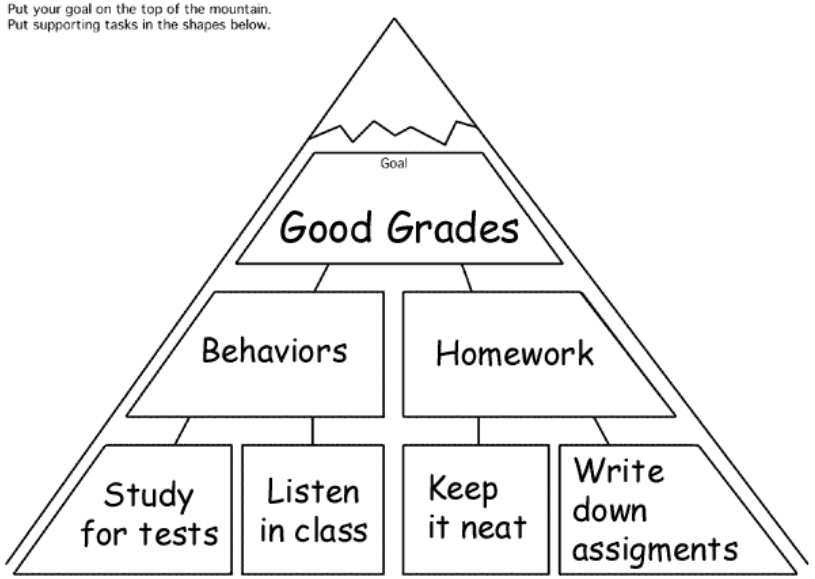
Name _____ Date _____

One thing leads to the next one

Work Habits

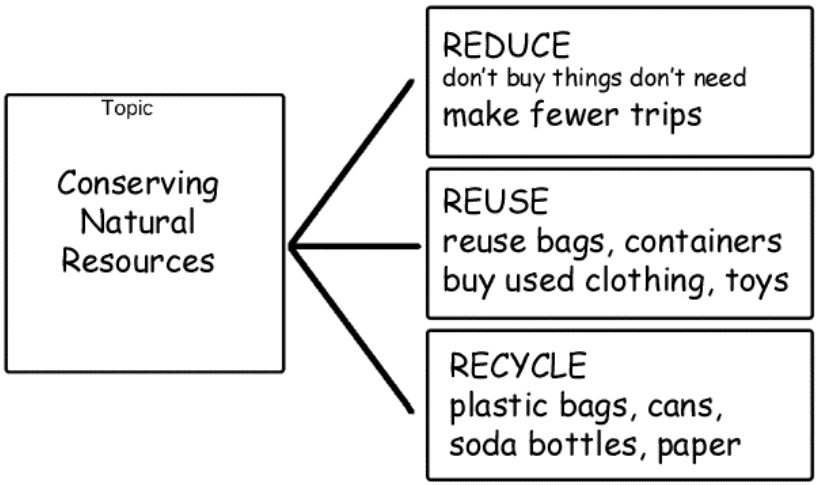
Name _____ Date _____

Put your goal on the top of the mountain.
Put supporting tasks in the shapes below.



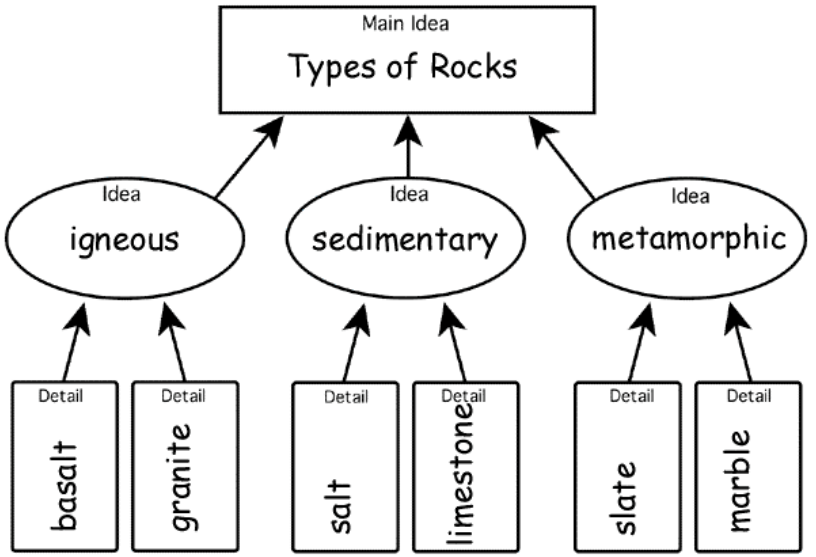
Science

Name _____ Date _____



Science

Name _____ Date _____



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