

Semantic Maps

Semantic maps are similar to graphic organizers. They are a way to visually organize information about a complex academic term or concept, including words that are related to the term being explored. Semantic maps help students understand and remember the meanings of words.

Semantic mapping, semantic feature analysis, and word maps are effective because:

- They are flexible, adaptable, and require minimal preparation time.
- They activate students' prior knowledge of words or concepts.
- They help students understand the relationship between words.
- They may improve students' recall of word meaning.

Source: <https://buildingrti.utexas.org/booklets/effective-instruction-for-middle-school-students-reading-difficulties-reading-teacher%E2%80%99s>

To use a semantic map, either the teacher or the students select a key concept from a text and write in the middle of the map. Next, students find occurrences of the word in the text. They read near the word to find related words and list those words on the map.

Semantic maps can use a mind map format such as the example in the photo, or they can have pre-determined categories such as the List--Group--Label activity on the next page or the Frayer Model.



<https://www.upperelementarysnapshots.com/2017/06/23-effective-vocabulary-activities.html>

List--Group--Label

1. Choose a main word or concept from a text and write it in the box.
2. List all the related words from the text.
3. Group the words by writing them in the boxes under, "Label."
4. Write a label above each group.

WORD or CONCEPT:

Related Words

Label:

Label:

Label: