

Thinking Maps: Tools for Learning

This week's
focus:

The Flow
Map



Purpose:
Sequence

Key Words:

sequence
put in order
order
retell
cycles
patterns
processes
change
predict
multi-step
problems

Thinking process:

Use a flow map to help organize a sequence of events. It allows you to show how events are related to one another. Through the use of substages that are written below the major events, you can offer even more details about those relationships. The substages would include "actions" that happened within each segment of the event being described.

Flow maps can be used to show the steps of a process or a cycle. They also do not always need to be completed in a straight line. The water cycle or rock cycle is often represented in a circular "flow map."

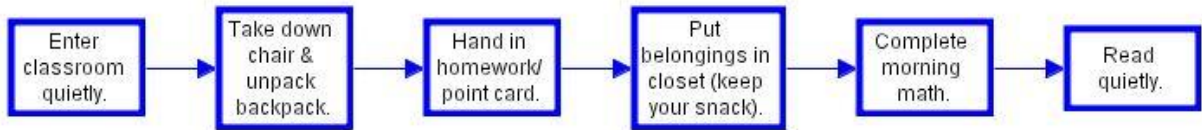
How to create this map:

1. Write the name of the event at the top of your work space.
2. The main stages of the events should be listed chronologically in rectangles moving from left to right across the paper.
3. Draw an arrow from the first box to the next box to show the flow of events.
4. After reaching the end of first row, you may continue to the next row to add additional rectangles.
5. If more details about each stage are necessary, you may add smaller rectangles with substages under the major stage.

Turn over to see examples and suggestions.

Here are examples of flow maps from classrooms.

Morning Routine



Sample questions you could ask at home:

What is your after school/work routine look like? (or a morning routine to get ready for work)

What do you do to get ready for dinner?

What does your schedule look like on a typical day of the week? (Select one day)

In what order did the events of a family trip happen?

Select one of the questions to the left or come up with your own idea of how your child or your family could use this Flow map.