

# Concept Mapping

Concept Mapping is converting a verbal explanation of a process or state of affairs to a visual model.

## How do I map?

First reject the idea of an outline, or paragraphs using sentences.

You will need:

- a pencil (you'll be erasing!) and a blank (non-lined) big piece of paper
- a blackboard and (colored) chalk
- "post-it" notes

**Think in terms of key words or symbols** that represent ideas and words.

**Write down the most important word or short phrase or symbol for the center.**

Think about it; circle it.

**Post other important concepts and their words outside the circle**

## Edit this first phase

-Think about the relation of outside items to the center item

Erase, edit, and/or shorten words to key ideas  
Relocate important items closer to each other for better organization

If possible, use color to organize information  
Link concepts with words to clarify their relationships

## Continue working outward

Freely and quickly add other key words and ideas (you can always erase!)

Think weird: combine concepts to expand your map or; break boundaries

Develop in directions the topic takes you--not limited by how you are doing the map

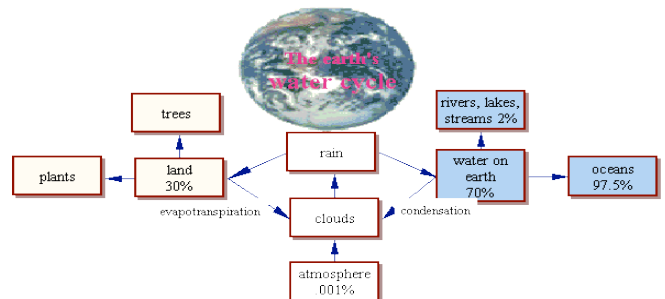
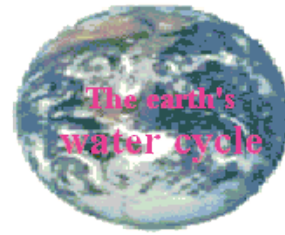
As you expand your map, it tends to become more specific or detailed

## Set the map aside

### Later, continue development and revision

Stop and think about relationships you are developing

Expand the map over time (right up to an exam if necessary!)



Source: <http://www.studygs.net/mapping/index.htm> Free Mapping Tools: <http://cmap.ihmc.us/>