

50+ Creative Uses for BrainPOP's Make-a-Map Tool

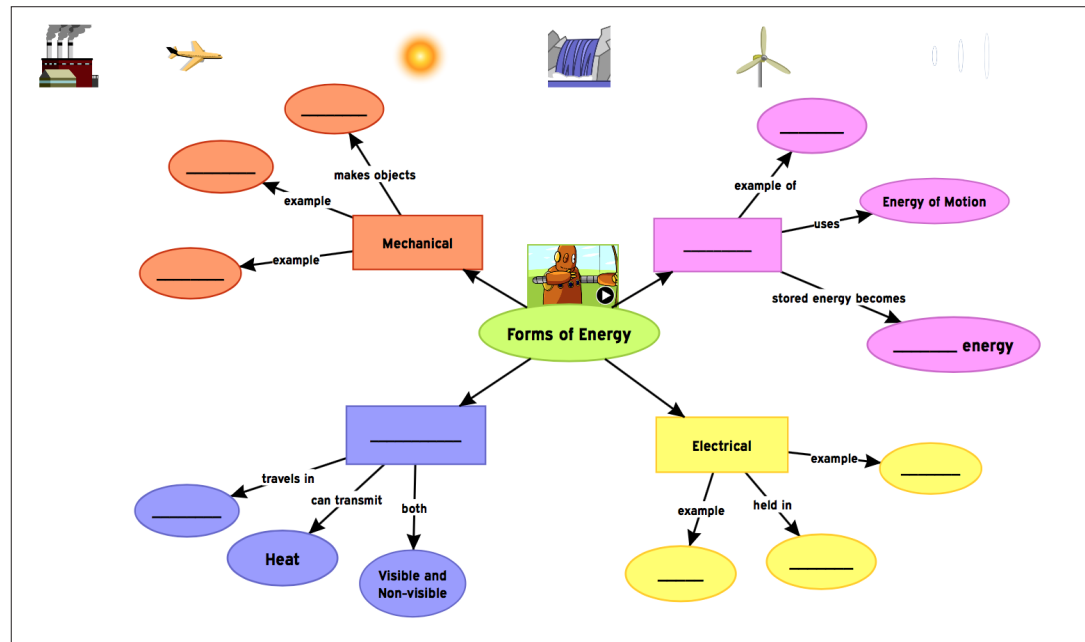
BrainPOP's Make-A-Map concept mapping tool is incredibly versatile. Here are just a few ideas for how you can use it in your school:

General Classroom Uses

- Assist students in organizing information
- Assess student learning
- Present difficult material in a step-by-step manner
- Introduce a new concept
- Identify similarities and differences between ideas and concepts
- Help students make meaningful connections between the main idea and details
- Assist cooperative groups in defining projects and dividing job responsibilities
- Create flow charts for behavior plans for either the classroom or a specific student
- Identify when students don't understand information and where the breakdown is in their comprehension
- Show relationships between ideas or concepts
- Add more depth in a compare/contrast lesson
- Provide a framework for note-taking

General Classroom Uses (Continued)

- Identify similarities between different units
- Create instructions for games
- Help students study for a test
- Develop a course or workshop
- Create picture charts that students can follow if they are communication impaired
- Create a classroom organization chart with associated responsibilities
- Design a how-to or step-by-step guide for learning new software and web tools
- Create cause/effect/solution diagrams to resolve social issues within the classroom
- Plan a WebQuest
- Document job responsibilities
- Plan a website, blog post, or presentation
- Provide a skeleton map and have students fill in the information



Sample skeleton map



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(Continued)

Content Area-Specific Uses

- Plot summaries
- Book design elements
- Illustration of the digestive system
- Procedures to follow during an emergency drill such as a fire or storm drill
- Lab procedure explanation
- Presentation of lab conclusions and highlighting important concepts (especially prior to completing a written explanation)
- Local government diagram
- Detailed processes map (how to add polynomials etc.)
- Storyboards for PowerPoint and Hyperstudio presentations
- Historical cause and effect
- Organizer that shows the English word on one side and the foreign language word equivalent on the other side with pictures as hints
- When studying a poem: in the center concept, list the name of the poem and the connecting lines contain phrases from the poem: the subconcept explains the words in the phrase and the literary technique used such as personification
- Cycles (recycle, weather, etc.)
- Food chain construction
- Map of where items are stored in desk, trapper, or locker
- Library orientation
- Character descriptions
- Plot movement and how action leads to the climax
- Math-to teach algorithms (especially division)
- Math-problem solving (great because it is non-linear)

Among Faculty and Staff

- Illustrate school's goals
- Plan for Parent-Teacher Organization
- Explain staff responsibilities on committees
- Illustrate instructional goals with links to testing expectations
- Show what each grade will be teaching and how units fit into the larger picture of curriculum for the whole school
- Show integration of different topics across the curriculum for a unit, lesson, or long-range plan
- Personal and/or professional goals

With Students' Families and the Community

- Concept maps to send home to parents to help explain a unit so they can help their children study/review
- Open House/Back-to-School night presentations
- Explanations of the year's curriculum goals

