

What are Thinking Maps®?

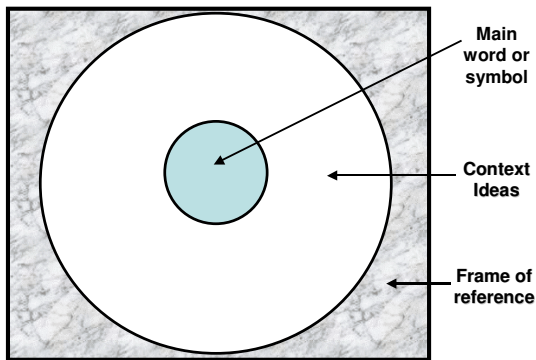
Did you know that only eight processes represent all our thinking?

All our teachers have been trained to use Thinking Maps®. Thinking Maps® is an exciting approach to help students develop a common language for meaningful learning.

We will emphasize one map a week for the next two months. The first map is a **CIRCLE MAP**. A **CIRCLE MAP** focuses on the thinking skill of defining in context or brainstorming an idea.

CIRCLE MAP

Thinking Skill: Defining in Context & Brainstorming



Center circle: The main word, picture, or symbol to be defined is placed in the center circle.

Outer circle: All the related ideas students can think of are placed in the outer circle.

Frame of reference: The frame of reference around the map allows students to indicate where they got their information: their teacher, a textbook, their parent, the Discovery Channel, etc.

For instance, in each of the examples below students can best organize their thinking by using a CIRCLE MAP.

“What are all the ways we can make 100?”

“Tell me all the things you know about wind.”

“Brainstorm all the ways you can recycle.”

“Brainstorm all the words that rhyme with _____.”

“Tell what you have learned about Michigan.”

“Brainstorm all the things you know about good readers.”

Thinking Maps® is good for ALL learners and is consistent with current research on the brain and learning. A powerful benefit of this approach is that it can be used at all grade levels and in all content areas and supports students in the development of critical thinking skills necessary for success in school and in the real world.

Parent Tip: ask your child to tell you what they know about circle maps and how they have used them at school.