CONCEPT MAPPING

One way to organize information is in a concept map. A concept map is a visual tool that shows how ideas or information are related. In this case, it is a visual representation of relationships among a particular science concept or process. The map flows from a general main concept at the top to more specific concepts at the bottom. Lines or arrows are used to show how the different parts of a concept are related. A connection between two concepts may be written on the line linking them. When the circled concepts and the linking words are read together, they form a sentence. Concept maps may use symbols, key words, and/or sketches for the parts involved.

Some concept maps, called events chains, are sequential, and others cyclical. The most complex maps are network tree maps. Network tree maps enable students to compare parallel concepts and visually comprehend where like concepts begin to diverge.

An entire lesson in a chapter may be mapped, or just the concepts presented in one or two paragraphs from a lesson. It is advisable to make the first few concept maps comparatively easy and nearly complete. As the students progress, the concept mapping worksheets can become more difficult, with only the skeleton and linking words provided.

NOTES: Concept Map of the Greenhouse Effect

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burning of
forests and grasslands
releases

carbon dioxide
into the
atmosphere
forming a

layer of gases
around
Earth
back to
allowing sunlight to reach the
surface
which reflects

heat

sunlight

where they are
trapped
creating the
greenhouse effect
which may cause a rise in
Earth's temperature
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CONCEPT MAP OF THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Complete this concept map of the greenhouse effect. Refer to your notes if necessary.

- burning of forests and grasslands
  - releases
    - into the
      - forming a layer of gases
        - where they are trapped
          - creating the
            - back to allowing sunlight to reach the which may cause a rise in
              - which reflects
                - heat