How to Use Graphic Organizers

What is a Graphic Organizer?

A graphic organizer (aka a map OR word web) is usually a one-page form with blank areas for the student to fill in with related ideas and information. Some organizers are very specific; others can be used with many topics. For the most part, the information on a graphic organizer could just as easily be filled in on a form or written as a list. The organizer gives the child another way to see the information. Some of the organizers allow for the information to be written or drawn, opening the activity up to younger grades.

Using a Graphic Organizer

Many of the organizers on our site are designed for general use. To keep things flexible, most directions and labels on the organizers do not give many details for how to use it. When a child first uses one kind of organizer, it is recommended that a sample organizer be drawn on the board for the class to fill in together. This also gives the opportunity for children to understand that sometimes there might be more answers than there are spaces on the organizer.

You can fill in part of the organizer or add specific directions before photocopying it for the class.

Graphic organizers can be used to reinforce topics from any subject. See the examples below for some ideas to get you started. Enjoy!
These are just a few of the many ways organizers can be used.

**Math**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I know</th>
<th>What I have to find out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 like cats</td>
<td>How many students favorite animal is NOT a dog or cat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 like dogs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 in class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Finding out**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finding out</th>
<th>What I learned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 + 15 = 25</td>
<td>Seven students have a favorite animal that is not a dog or cat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 - 25 = 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social Studies**

- School in winter
- Main Idea: pioneer children life
- Did not have many toys
- Did many farm chores
- Played games like tag

**Science**

- Germinates
- Cycle of Plants
- Plants
- Flowers
- Seed falls to ground

**Language Arts**

- Nouns: dog, bike, mom, computer, plate, house
Science

Types of Rocks

Metamorphic

Sedimentary

Igneous

Main Idea

Work Habits

Good Grades

Homework

Study for Tests

Listen in Class

Keep it Neat

Write Assignments

Work down

Literature

Event 1

Grasshopper was staring

Event 2

Ant put away lots of food

Event 3

Ant worked while it was winter.