

Examples for

Background Knowledge : Key to Reading Comprehension and Learning

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General Info.

- looks like insect but NOT
- belongs to arachnid class
- 40,000 kinds
- life span of 1 to 20

Body Parts - Head end

- cephalothoraxes
- 8 long, many-jointed legs
- as many as 8 eyes
- venom claws in front of mouth

Spiders

Body Parts - Tail end

- abdomen
- lungs - folds of tissue
- large digestive tube
- spinning tubes - make silk threads

Size

- various sizes
- from hardly visible to up to 3"
- up to 10" legs

Colors

- most - dull
- some - bright
- some patterned

Webs

- orb web
 - orderly
- cobweb
 - irregular
- sheet web
 - woven sheet of thread
- funnel web
 - sheet web w/ tube

Example 1
Graphic Organizer – Central idea

Federal Government

Branches

Legislative Branch

Senate

- 100 senators
- 2 each state
- passes laws
- impeaches officials
- approves treaties

House

- 425 representatives
- depends on pop.
- Passes laws
- Originates spending bills

Executive Branch

President heads

- carries out laws
- directs government
- commands armed forces

Judicial Branch

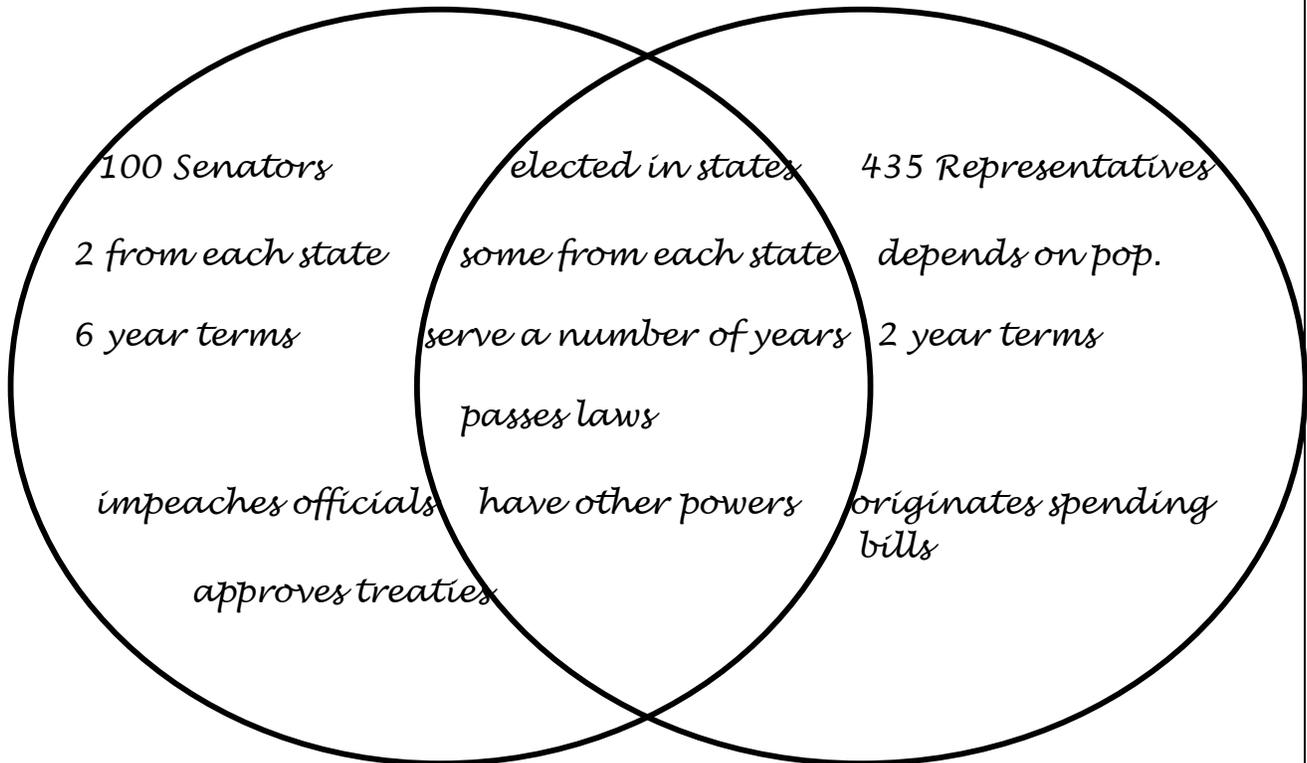
Supreme Court

- nine justices
- interprets laws
- interprets constitution

Legislative Branch

Senate

House of
Representatives



Example 3
Graphic Organizer 3
Venn Diagram (Compare – Contrast)

COMPARE AND CONTRAST
In regard to:

League of Nations

United Nations

- January 10, 1920.
- Established by peace treaties after end of WWI.

When

June 25, 1945 when 50 nations signed charter in San Francisco. Originally conceived by Churchill and Roosevelt.

- Largest # of nations - 58
- Most important nations - Britain and France
- USA did not join due to isolationism.

Who joined

- All peace loving nations
- 192 member states in 2008
- Permanent members of Security Council = China, France, Russia, USA, UK

- Ensure that war never broke out again.
- Settle countries' disputes
- Improving global quality of life

Mission

- Maintain peace & security
- Promote friendly relations among nations
- Tackle economic, social, humanitarian problems

- First international organization of this magnitude.
- Established a model/foundation for UN.

Major Successes

Global international organization. Peacekeeping activities, supplying police forces, disease control, humanitarian programs, setting standards for human freedom and dignity.

Failure to stop World War II

Major Failures

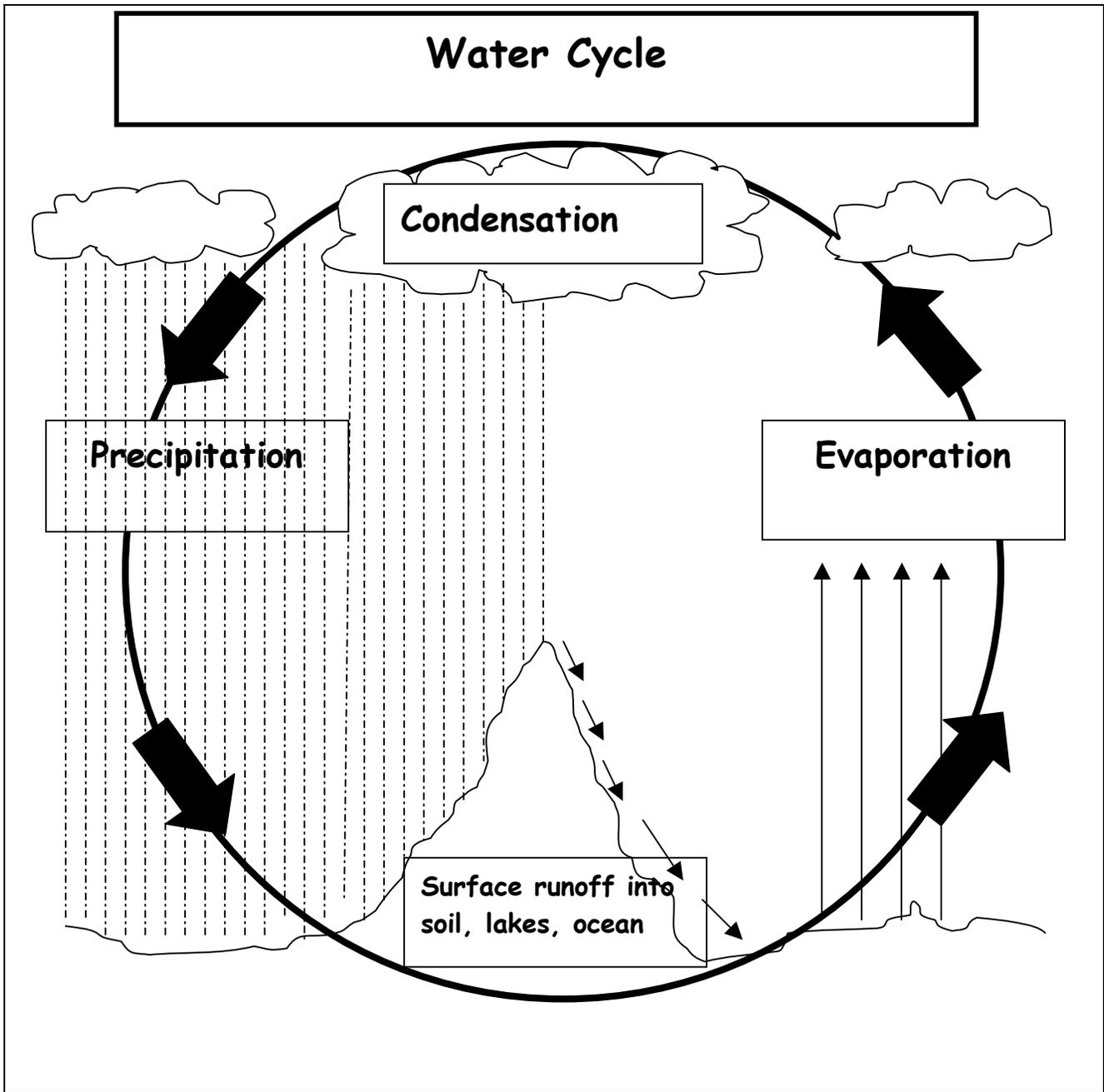
- Failure to keep peace in many cases. Actions often stifled by super powers. Difficulty regulating atomic bombs. Inadequate funding for important programs.

Example 4

Graphic Organizer 4 - Compare – Contrast

Biomes Basics

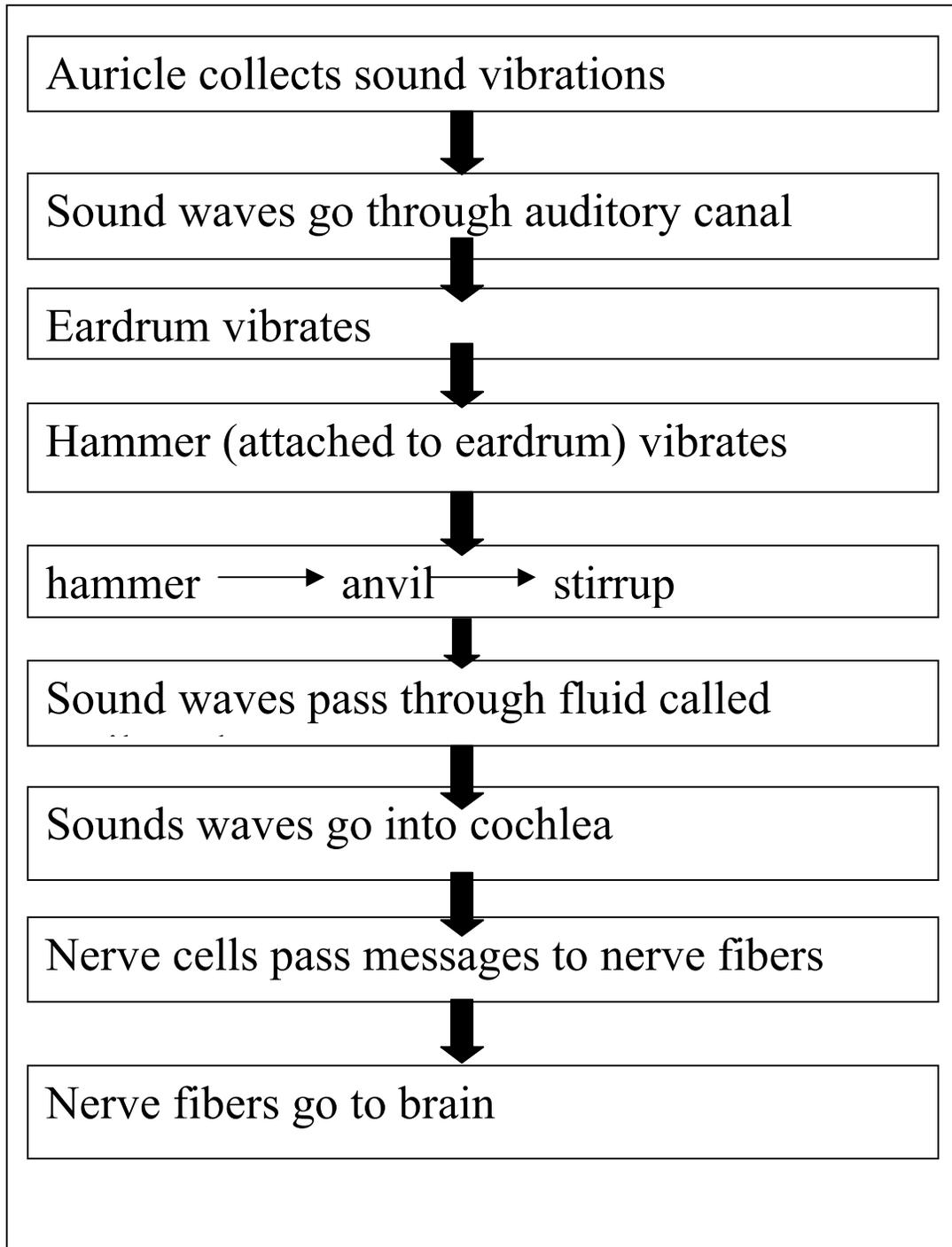
	<i>Climate</i>	<i>Vegetation</i>	<i>Animals</i>
Arctic Tundra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coldest biome -Long cold winters -Short cool summers -Little precipitation - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No deep root systems -1,700 kinds of plants -Low shrubs, mosses, grasses, etc. -To resist cold, plants short and group together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mammals: caribou, foxes, wolves, polar bears, etc. -Birds: ravens, sandpipers, terns, gulls, etc. -Insects: mosquitoes, flies, moths, grasshoppers, etc. -Fish: cod, salmon, trout -In winter, hibernate or migrate south
Desert (Hot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wide range of daily temperatures -Hot during day -Cold at night -Low precipitation -Low humidity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Plants adapted to limited amount of water -Must limit water lost (e.g., waxy coating on leaves, thorns instead of leaves) -Grasses, succulents, cacti, trees (e.g., mesquite) - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Mammals: bobcat, coyote, kangaroo rats, jack rabbits, etc. -Reptiles: Lizards, snakes, tortoises -Insects: scorpions, flies, wasps, beetles, ants, etc. - Birds: hawks, owls, roadrunners, herons, etc.
Tropical Rain Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Warm to very hot -High amount of rain -Humid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tall, dense jungle - 2/3 of world's plant species - Broad-leafed, hardwood evergreens - Exotic flowers - Ferns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home to more than ½ of world's animals - Monkeys, frogs, lizards, bats, butterflies, snakes, sloth, small cats, etc. - 1/3 of all birds



Example 6
Graphic Organizer 6 -Flow Chart

TOPIC:

How the ear works



Example 7

Graphic Organizer 7 – Flow Chart

Example 8

Novel Preview

Title of Book _____

Author of Book _____

Story Element		Notes
Setting		
Main Character		
Other Characters		
Conflict		
Theme		

Novel Preview

Title of Book _____

Author of Book _____

Story Element		Notes
Setting		
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Novel: *Waiting for Normal*

Author: Leslie Connor

Character List

Character	Initial Information	Additional Information
Addie Addison Schmeeter Cookie	Main character 6th grader Moves to neighborhood Has dyslexia Plays flute	
Denise Mommer	Addie's mother "All or nothing"	
Pete	Mother's boyfriend	
Dwight	Addie's stepfather Father of Addie's step sisters	
The Littles Bryнна and Katie	Young step sisters	
Jack Addie's Grandfather Grandio	Grandfather on father's side	
Soula	Lady who works at mini market Lives in neighborhood Has cancer	
Elliot	Works in mini market	
Rick	Elliot's friend Owns restaurant	
Piccolo	Addie's hamster	
Robert Helena Marissa	6th grade friends	

Example 9

Novel Sleuth

Title of Novel	Sleuth	
Examine	What can be learned?	Notes
Back Cover or Front flap Synopsis of story	Setting(s) Relevance of Setting Main character Info about main character Conflict Events	
Reviews	Theme Genre	
Cover	Title Meaning Significance of title Illustration Type of story Actions of character Setting	
Copyright Date	Historical context	
Foreword	Author's purpose Author's interests Setting of story Significance of setting	

Example 10

Example 10

Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

1

Jewish Faith - Background

- Jewish faith
 - Believe in one God
 - Believe God created the universe
 - Follow the Ten Commandments
 - Holy book - Torah (Old Testament)
 - Special Holy Days

2

Jewish Faith

- Rosh Hashana
 - Jewish New Year
 - Falls in September
 - A time to reflect on your actions in the previous year
 - A shofar is played
 - Ram's horn
 - Call to Spiritual Reawakening

3



4



Jewish History

- Faced prejudice and persecution
 - Roman Empire
 - Jews banned from holy city of Jerusalem
 - Crusaders
 - Massacred Jews in Germany
 - Spain (1492)
 - Jews driven from Spain

Jewish History

- People often criticized Jewish beliefs.
- Some people viewed Jews as a different race.
- In Germany, Adolf Hitler used these myths to create hatred toward the Jews.
- Dehumanization and hatred lead to killing of the Jews (holocaust).

Jewish History

- World War II
 - Germany
 - Fought to control all of Europe
 - Wanted to kill all Jews in Europe
 - Invaded many countries including Denmark

Example 11

6 Kingdoms

Kingdom	Unicellular Multi-cellular	Prokaryote (no true nucleus) Eukaryote (True nucleus)	Heterotroph (feeds on other organisms) Autotroph (makes own food)
Archaeobacteria	Unicellular	Prokaryote	Heterotroph Autotroph
Eubacteria	Unicellular	Prokaryote	Heterotroph Autotroph
Protista (protists)	Mostly unicellular	Eukaryote	Heterotroph Autotroph
Fungi	Multi-cellular	Eukaryote	Heterotroph
Plantae (plants)	Multi-cellular	Eukaryote	Autotroph
Animalia (animals)	Multi-cellular	Eukaryote	Heterotroph

Example 12

Preview - Section 1, pages 30 - 35

The Cardiovascular System

What is blood?

- Red Blood Cells
- White Blood Cells
- Platelets

Have a heart

The flow of blood through the heart

Blood Vessels

- Arteries
- Capillaries
- Veins

Going with the flow

The flow of the blood through the body
(Pulmonary circulation)
(Systemic circulation)

Blood Flows Under Pressure

Exercise and Blood Flow

Example 13

Word Form Chart

The Skill of Pericles

Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
disguise disguiser		To disguise look like someone else disguised disguising	disguisedly
democracy democrat	Democratic a gov. in which power is held by the people		democratically
virtue a good quality that someone has	Virtuous		virtuously
brute brutes cruel people	Brute (brute strength)		
jealousy jealousies	Jealous feeling unhappy because someone has something that you wish		jealously
		To rouse to wake up roused	
command commander	Command	To command to tell someone that they have to do something commands commanded commanding	

(Kate Kinsella, 2002)

Example 14

Concept:	
Analysis of word:	
Part of Speech:	
Critical Attributes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____• _____• _____• _____• _____	
Examples	Non-Examples
Associations:	Synonyms:
Members of Word Family	
Your Sentence	

Concept: <i>genocide</i>	
Analysis of word: <i>genos = race or tribe (Greek)</i> <i>cide = killing (Latin)</i>	
Part of Speech: <i>noun</i>	
Critical Attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>deliberate</i> • <i>systematic</i> • <i>destruction</i> • <i>of a group of people (in whole or part)</i> • <i>based on a specific characteristic (e.g., ethnicity, race, nationality, religion)</i> 	
Examples	Non-Examples
<i>Holocaust in WWII - killing of Jews</i>	<i>Killing of German and American troops in WWII</i>
<i>1994 - Killing of Tutsis by Hutus in Rwanda (Africa)</i>	<i>2004 - 168,000 killed in Indonesia tsunami</i>
Associations: <i>suicide</i> <i>infanticide</i> <i>homicide</i> <i>insecticide</i> <i>pesticide</i>	
Synonyms: <i>Mass murder, massacre, annihilation, extermination, elimination, ethnic cleansing</i>	
Members of Word Family	
<i>genocidal (adj.)</i>	
Your Sentence	
<i>During World War II, genocide occurred when the German government under Hitler killed millions of Jews.</i>	

Anticipation Guide

Student _____ **Chapter** _____

Directions: In the column labeled *me*, place a check next to any statement that you believe is true. After reading the text, compare your opinions on these statements with information contained in the text.

Me	Text	Statements
		1. Mohammed, the prophet of Islam, was born more than 500 years after Jesus.
		2. Mohammed believed that there was only one God, Allah.
		3. Mohammed destroyed the idols that were in the temple in Mecca.
		4. The word Islam means “remission”. Mohammed told his followers that they should seek remission of their sins.
		5. Mohammed, like Jesus, is worshiped by his followers as God.
		6. Five times a day, Muslims face the holy city of Medina and pray.
		7. Islam teaches concern for the poor.
		8. It takes many years to become a clergy member in the Islam faith. Few people reach this level.
		9. The Koran, the Muslim’s holy book, is written in the original Greek language of Mohammed.

(Herber, 1978)

Example 16

