

Q What is a graphic organizer?

A A graphic organizer is a visual representation of concepts, knowledge, or information that can incorporate both text and pictures. Examples include calendars, maps, Venn diagrams, and flow charts. Graphic organizers allow the mind to discover patterns and relationships. Visual tools that help learners understand and organize information, they are like mind maps that promote active learning. Graphic organizers can promote creativity and help students develop higher-level thinking skills.

Students may use a variety of graphic organizers in almost any subject.

- A timeline of events displays social studies information.
- An outline provides the structure for analyzing a literature selection.
- A fish-bone diagram organizes a vocabulary lesson.
- A mind-map promotes generation of interrelated ideas for an art assignment.
- A chart or graph guides the recording of lab data in a science experiment.
- “The Big Q” directs the solving of math problems.

Many examples of these and other kinds of graphic organizers and their uses can be found on the Internet.