

Mercury in the Environment: Part 3

Picture Landscape Concept Maps

You are going to make a picture landscape concept map in your same groups from earlier this week. This map will emphasize important aspects of mercury in the environment. I will draw an example on the board. I would like you to include the following information in your concept map:

1. The water cycle
2. Food webs and energy cycling
3. Human impact on the environment: Mercury release into a river

Examples of what to include: the river, the factory, animals in the food chain that are affected by mercury, precipitation, homes on the river, etc.

You may use images from your presentation or from the internet and information for the concept map can come from your textbook, notes, presentations, and handouts.

Concept Maps

Definition: Concept maps offer a method to represent information visually. There are a variety of such maps.

Purpose: Concept maps access the power of our vision to understand complex information "at-a-glance." The primary function of the brain is to interpret incoming information to make meaning. It is easier for the brain to make meaning when information is presented in visual formats. This is why a picture is worth a thousand words. It is essential to your studies and career that you can handle complex information; concept maps offer one method to do this.

Creative Tips for Making Concept Maps

1. Review available visual materials such as photos, sketches, graphs, etc.
2. Focus upon a visual language approach to communication.
3. Consider possible formats for visual structuring.
4. Relax, close your eyes and allow your mind to "free associate".
5. Draw informal, thumbnail sketches of your visual impressions.
6. Experiment with a variety of visual layout formats.
7. Color shapes, arrows or words for emphasis.
8. Imagine a bird's eye overview of the subject matter to be presented.
9. Look with fresh eyes, is the visual presentation attractive?
10. Ask yourself, are these visuals compelling? Do they help convince the viewer that the subject matter is important and inviting?
11. Integrate the visuals with the text. Does it work to the best advantage?
12. Keep a record of the maps you do (Perhaps in your "Visual Notebook").