

Strategy: Learning Maps

In One Sentence

A graphic organizer depicting the essential knowledge, skills, and big ideas students are to learn in a unit.

What's The Point?

- Learning maps are powerful because their visual depiction of a unit keeps students and teachers on track.
- The map is an accommodation for students who struggle to take notes, and it structures the beginning and ending of lessons.
- Learning maps are living study guides that make connections explicit and support repeated review.

How Are Learning Maps Used by Teachers?

- Teachers should spend 25-40 minutes to introduce the unit through an interactive discussion of the map on the first day of a unit.
- Throughout the unit, the maps may be used as visual prompts for conversations around advance and post-organizers.
- Teachers should prompt students to record new information on their maps as it is learned.
- At the end of the unit, maps can be integrated into the unit review.

How Are Learning Maps Used by Students?

Students use learning maps:

- to take note of key information,
- to frequently review and clarify their learning, and
- as points of departure for classroom dialogue.

Hattie Check (2018)

- Student Expectations = 1.44
- Teacher Clarity = .75
- Concept Mapping = .75
- Imagery = .45

Diverse Learners

- Use pictures with words to support language, resize if larger pictures needed
- Review pictures before/during/after lessons on learning maps to show relation to other concepts and to bring up previous knowledge

Resources

- [Checklist](#)