

Concept Maps: See the relationship between ideas

Creating concept maps, which are also known as graphic organizers, is a powerful study strategy because it helps you see the “big picture” of your learning.

Making one is simple:

- **Identify a concept.**
- **From memory, try creating a graphic organizer related to this concept.** This is an excellent way to assess what you already understand and what you need to review.
- Go through lecture notes, readings and any other resources you have to **fill in any gaps.**
- Your completed concept map is a great study tool.
 - **Elaborate** (out loud or in writing) each part of the map.
 - **List related examples**, where applicable, for sections of the map.
 - **Re-create your concept map** without looking at the original, talking through each section as you do.

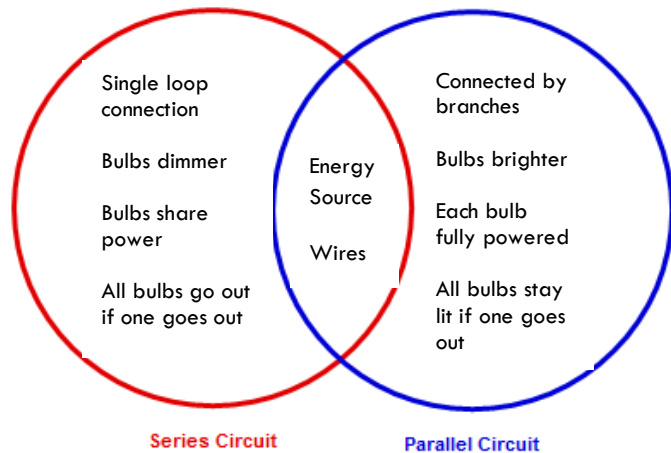
Draw concept maps by hand or make them digitally with [Inspiration](#), [Mindmeister](#), or [Coggle](#).

Four types of concept maps are shown on the next page, although there are many more. Think about how you can apply these examples to your own studying.

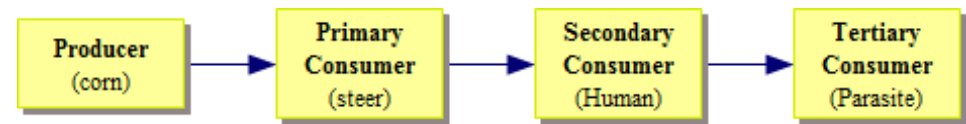


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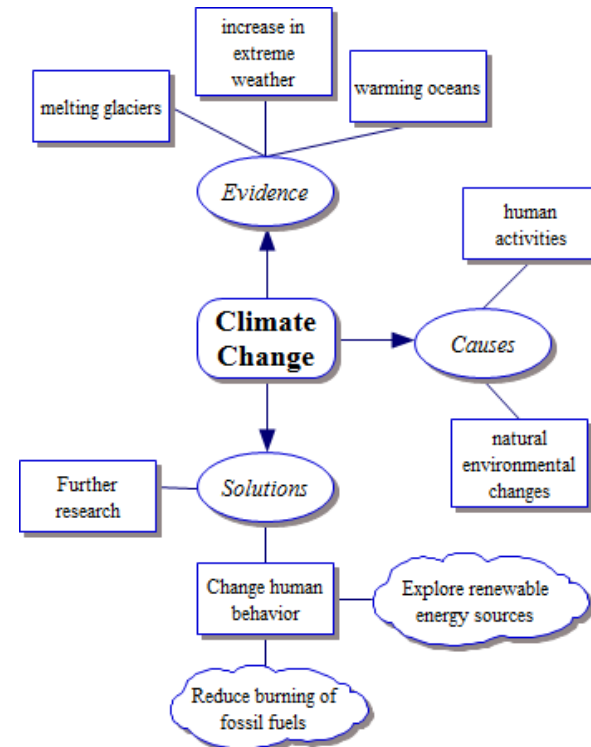
1. This example illustrates the **similarities and differences** between two ideas, such as Series and Parallel Circuits. The similarities are in the intersection of the 2 circles.



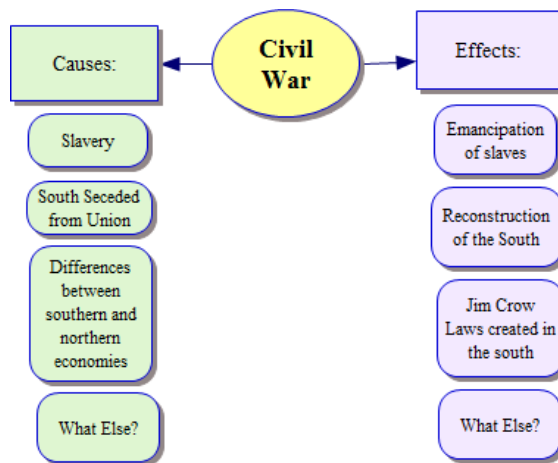
2. This example illustrates the relationship between ideas that are part of a **process**, such as a Food Chain.



4. This example illustrates the relationship between **main idea**, such as Climate Change, and **supporting details**.



3. This example illustrates the **Causes and Effects** for an event, such as The Civil War.



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