

Vocabulary

VOC-23 Semantic Web

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Students create a web of their knowledge on a theme, incorporating the use of related vocabulary words. This helps readers activate and draw on prior knowledge, recognize important components of different concepts and see the relationships among the components.

MATERIALS: Paper/chart paper, pencils/markers

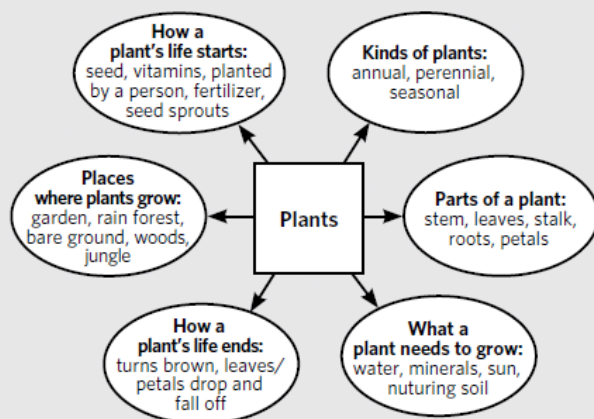
- 1 Select a topic that will allow students to develop and refine their vocabulary in a particular area. The goal is to integrate multiple new vocabulary words in a meaningful way. Select the vocabulary words to teach in advance.
- 2 Write the topic in the center of a chart. It may be one previously studied or read about, or one students are beginning to study and have prior knowledge about.
- 3 Students think of as many words as possible that relate to the topic. This can be done as a brainstorming session with the whole class, with a partner or individually. Be sure the vocabulary

words you selected in advance are included in the words students provide.

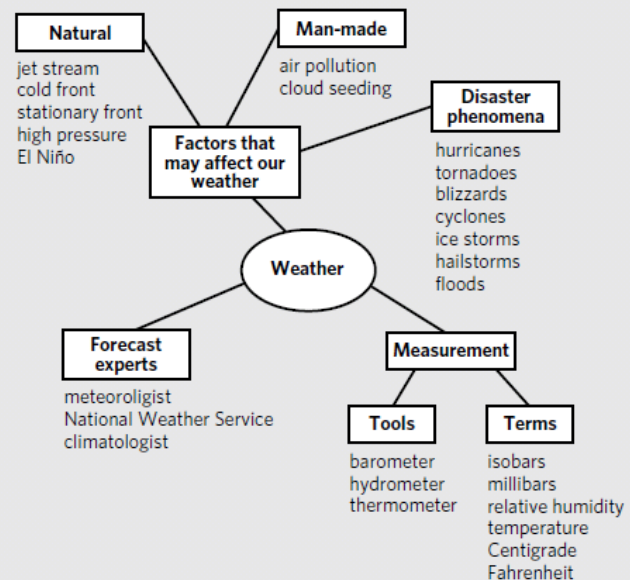
- 4 Students group the words into categories and depict the categories in the form of a map or web to show the relationships among the words.
- 5 Students share their semantic webs with the class, explaining the reasoning behind their categories and the words they've grouped under each. Discussion is an essential part in the effectiveness of semantic mapping. As they listen and share, students become aware of new words, gather new meanings for familiar terms and see relationships among numerous words.

EXAMPLE:

This semantic web shows how the word *bare* might be incorporated into a brainstorming session on plants. The vocabulary words selected were *mineral*, *vitamin*, *rain forest*, *bare*, *stalk*, *sprout* and *annual*. The map incorporates all or most of the words, so students see how the words represent ideas that are connected.

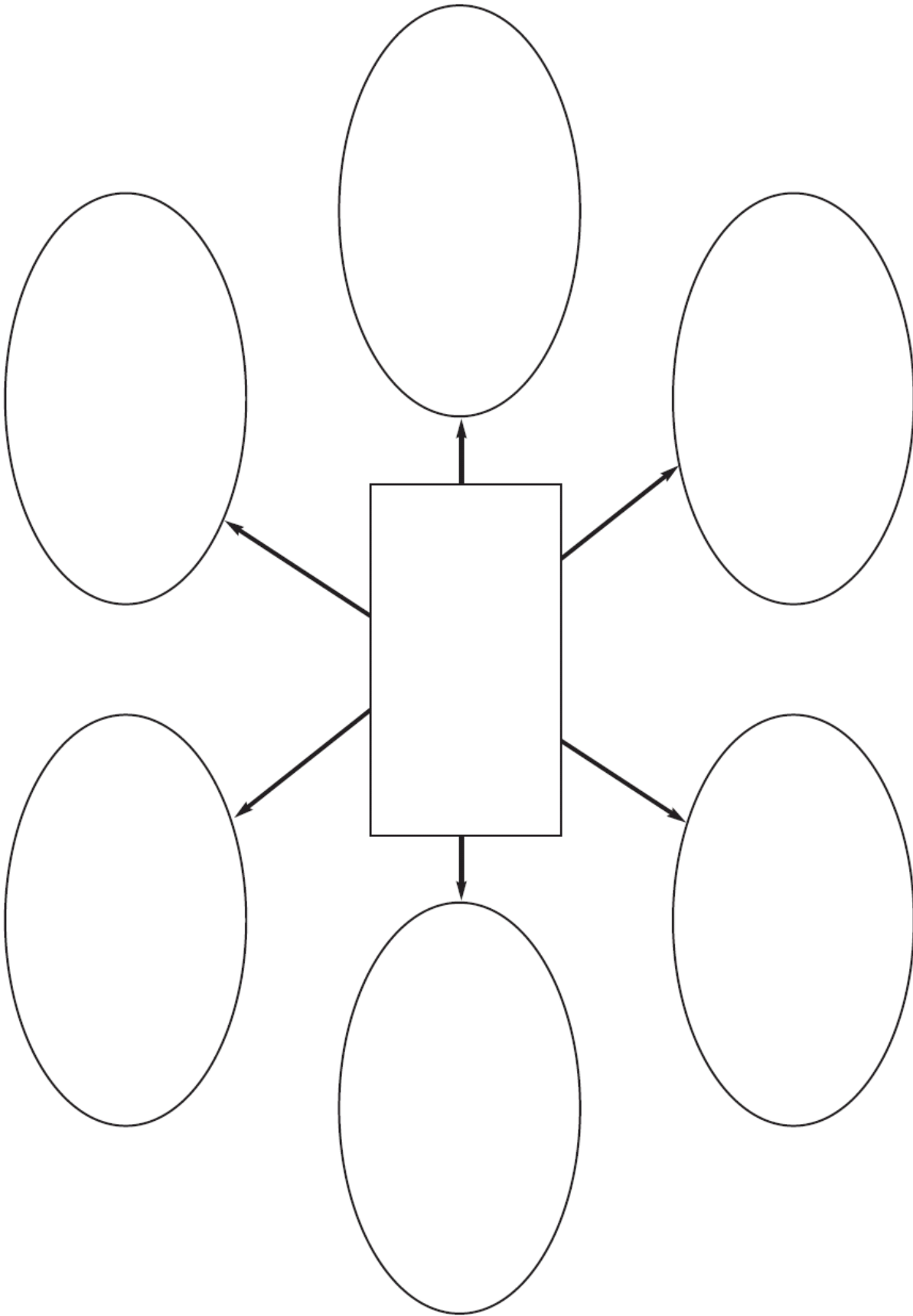


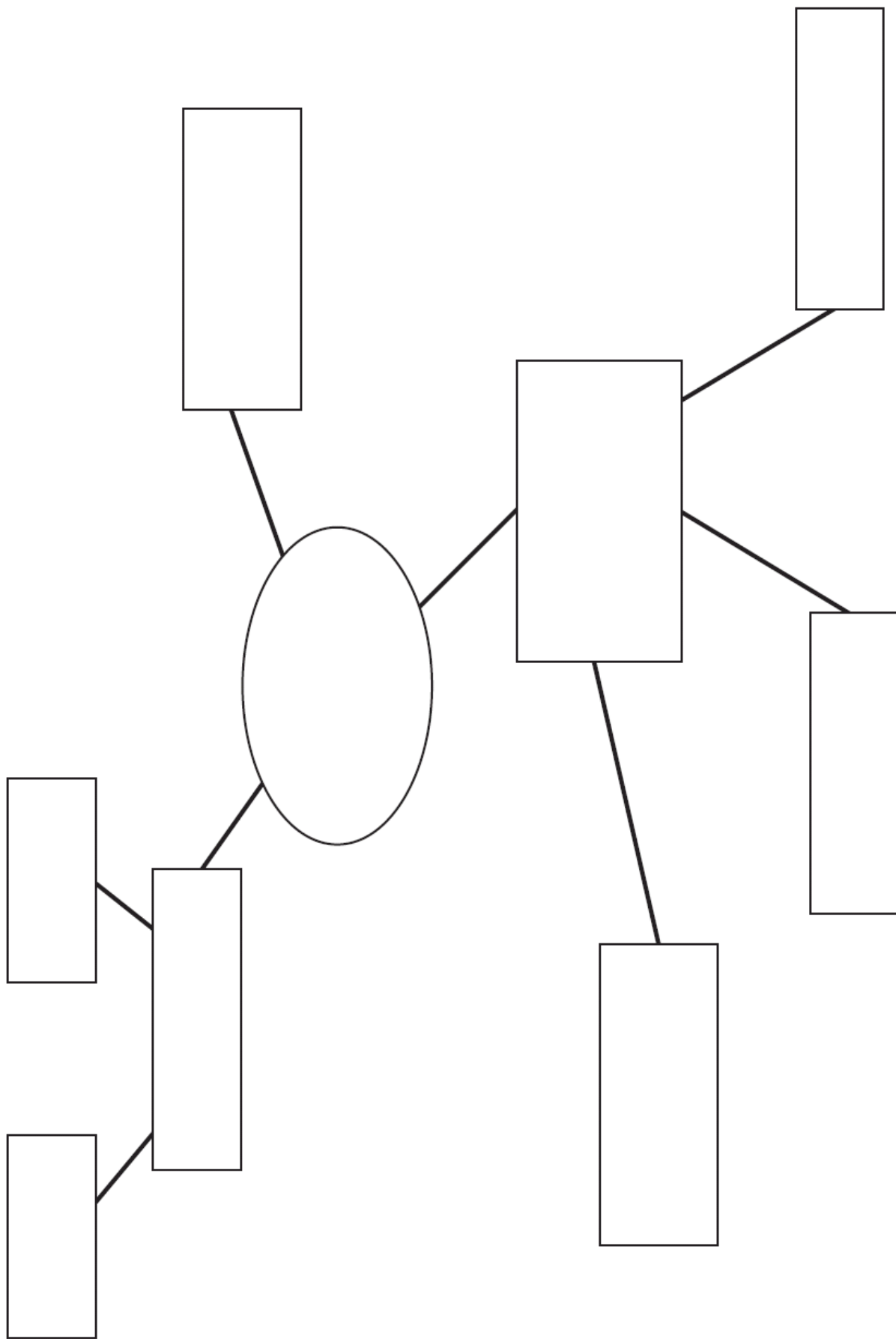
The vocabulary words selected for this semantic map were *meteorologist*, *blizzard*, *humidity* and *barometer*.



EXTENSION: Semantic web worksheets can be used by students individually or in teams, with students independently completing a web.

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