

DESIGN DOCUMENT
7360 INTRO. TO WEB DEVELOPMENT, SPRING, 2009

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PURPOSE:

My website will be a resource of information about integrating concept maps in the elementary curriculum. The purpose for the site will be to give elementary teachers ideas and tips on how to introduce young children to concept mapping, ideas for using concept mapping across the curriculum, and links to other resources on concept mapping. I plan to develop a teacher workshop on concept mapping. This site will be a resource for the workshop and workshop participants.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Teachers in my school use graphic organizers frequently but they rarely use a true concept map with propositions. They do not use concept mapping software such as Inspiration or Kidspiration. I would like to introduce them to concept mapping software and its endless possibilities for engaging students in meaningful learning. I also want to stress the importance and purpose of propositions and encourage their use.

Questions asked to 5 colleagues:

Would you like to have an online resource to use for continued study or reference after a workshop?

- All agreed it would be a great resource that they would like.

What would you like to have available on such a website? (Select as many as you like)

- Links to related research - 3
- Links to related software - 5
- Examples of products - 5
- Assessment options - 4
- Ideas for use in specific subject areas – 5
- Teaching tips – 4

AUDIENCE:

My audience will be teachers in my school system, workshop participants, and other teachers or parents searching the internet. The teachers will utilize the site for obtaining ideas in planning lessons integrating concept mapping.

CONTENT:

My website will include the following content areas:

- *What is a concept map?* - A definition/explanation of a concept map including discussion of nodes, links, and propositions.
- *Tips for Introducing Young Children to Concept Mapping* – This section will include strategies for introducing and teaching K-5 graders to use concept maps. It will also have a couple of links to other informative sites on this topic.

- *Use in Elementary Grades* – This section will contain ideas for using concept mapping in language arts, math, and social studies/science. It will also include student samples.
- *Standards* – ISTE NETS and Alabama Standards
- *Tools and Resources* – This section will have information/links about concept mapping software, links to sites with further information about concept maps in elementary school, and links to research findings on concept map use in schools.
- *Assessment* – Tips on making a rubric to assess a concept map and a sample rubric.
- *Contact Information* – Brief information about me and my contact information.

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION/RATIONALE OF ORGANIZATION:

My website will have a home page (index.html) with introductory information and links to content pages (hierarchical).

- The banner and navigation bar will be the same on all pages giving the site consistency in look and feel.
- Each page will have a link to the other pages and the home page. I believe this will create clear and simple navigation.
- A link to the contact information page will be on each page. In addition there will be an e-mail link in the footer of each page.
- Headings (page names) will be consistent in placement (probably the top right).
- The Use in Elementary Grades page will have three sub-pages--one for language arts, one for math, and one for science/social studies.

MEDIA:

The banner will be a graphic I create in Photoshop CS3. Other graphics will be concept maps in jpeg or gif format optimized for web use. Credit will be given to the map creator.

COLOR SCHEME AND RATIONALE:

Since the site is about concept maps and one of the features of a good concept map to me is color coding, I will select a family of 5 or 6 coordinating colors to be used. Text will be black on a white background. I will select one of the coordinating colors to use consistently throughout the site for the links. The selected colors will be used in the banner.

My rationale is that the site should have a clean, professional look and feel with touches of color to bring the viewers eye to important focal points and to add interest without being busy. Consistency in color scheme and layout throughout the site will give the viewer a sense of still being in the site and they will clearly know when they have left the site.

OUTLINES OF WEB SITE ORGANIZATION:

Outline of pages and proposed content:

Home Page (Main Page)

- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- Introductory Information
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

What is a Concept Map?

- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- Definition
- Propositions, Nodes, Links
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Tips for Introducing Young Children to Concept Mapping

- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- Tips and Introductory Activities
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Ideas for Using Concept Maps in Elementary Classrooms

- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- Links to and descriptions of subject area pages
 - Language Arts
 - Math
 - Social Studies/Science
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Standards

- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- ISTE
- Alabama
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Assessment

- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- Sample Rubric
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Tools and Resources

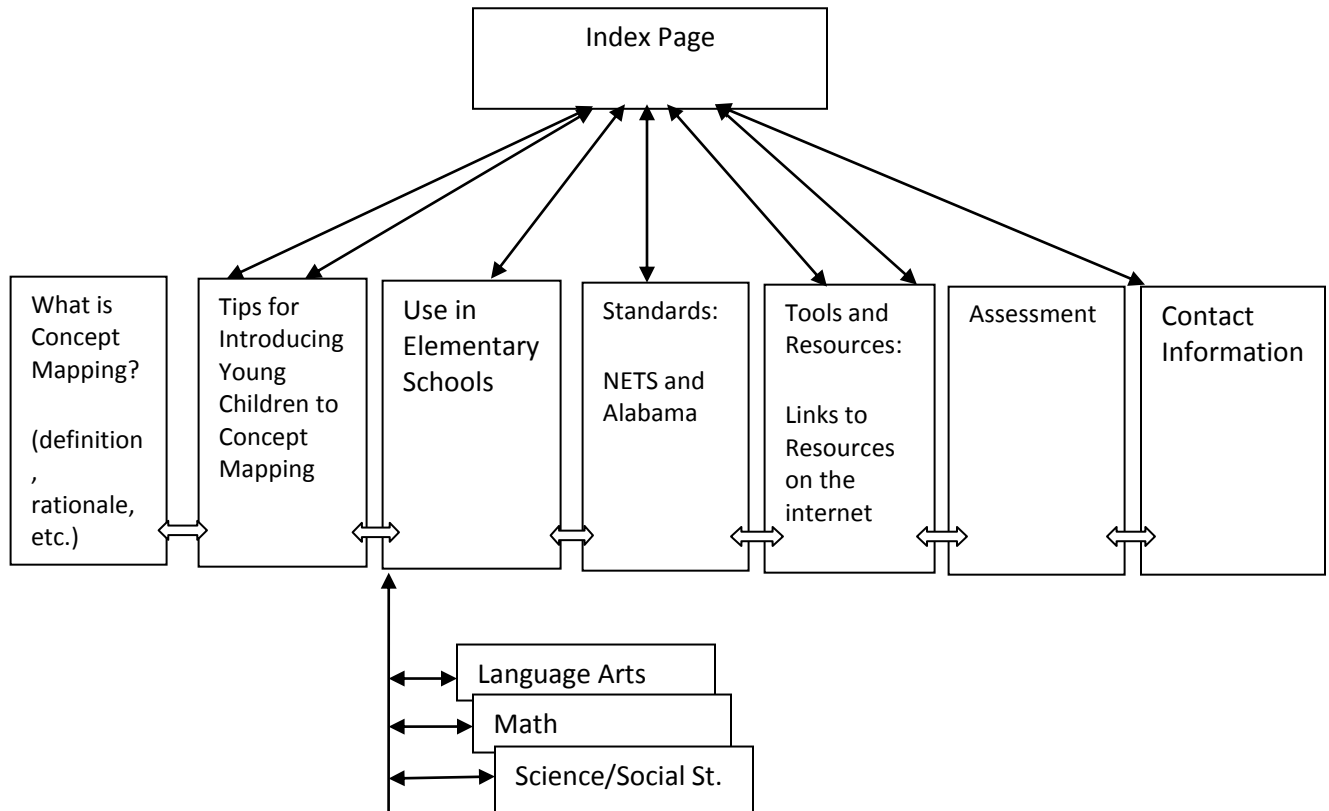
- Banner
- Navigation Bar
- Links to related resources
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Contact Information

- Banner

- Navigation Bar
- About Me
- Why I love concept mapping
- Contact Information
- Footer including e-mail link and site creation date

Organization Drawing:



Note: All pages will have a navigation bar to other pages in the site.