

Analysis With Idea Mapping (Center 2)

At this learning center, you will investigate the Texas climate and the plants best suited for Texas as part of planning a garden. An idea map is one method of taking notes during a brainstorming session. You can also use an idea map to connect ideas or concepts in material you are reading.

A sample idea map is provided on the next page. For more information on idea maps, visit the following websites:

- **Wikipedia: Mind Map:** Includes historical information about idea mapping as well as links to both free and commercially available software for creating idea maps - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_map
- **Wikipedia: Concept Map:** Includes similar information to the site above, but for concept maps - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concept_map
- **Thinkspiration™:** A blog about idea mapping on the Inspiration® Software site; briefly explains several types of maps (mind maps, concept maps, idea maps, and webbing) - <http://www.inspiration.com/blog/2011/03/quick-lesson-visual-learning-maps-explained/#more-1550>

Instructions

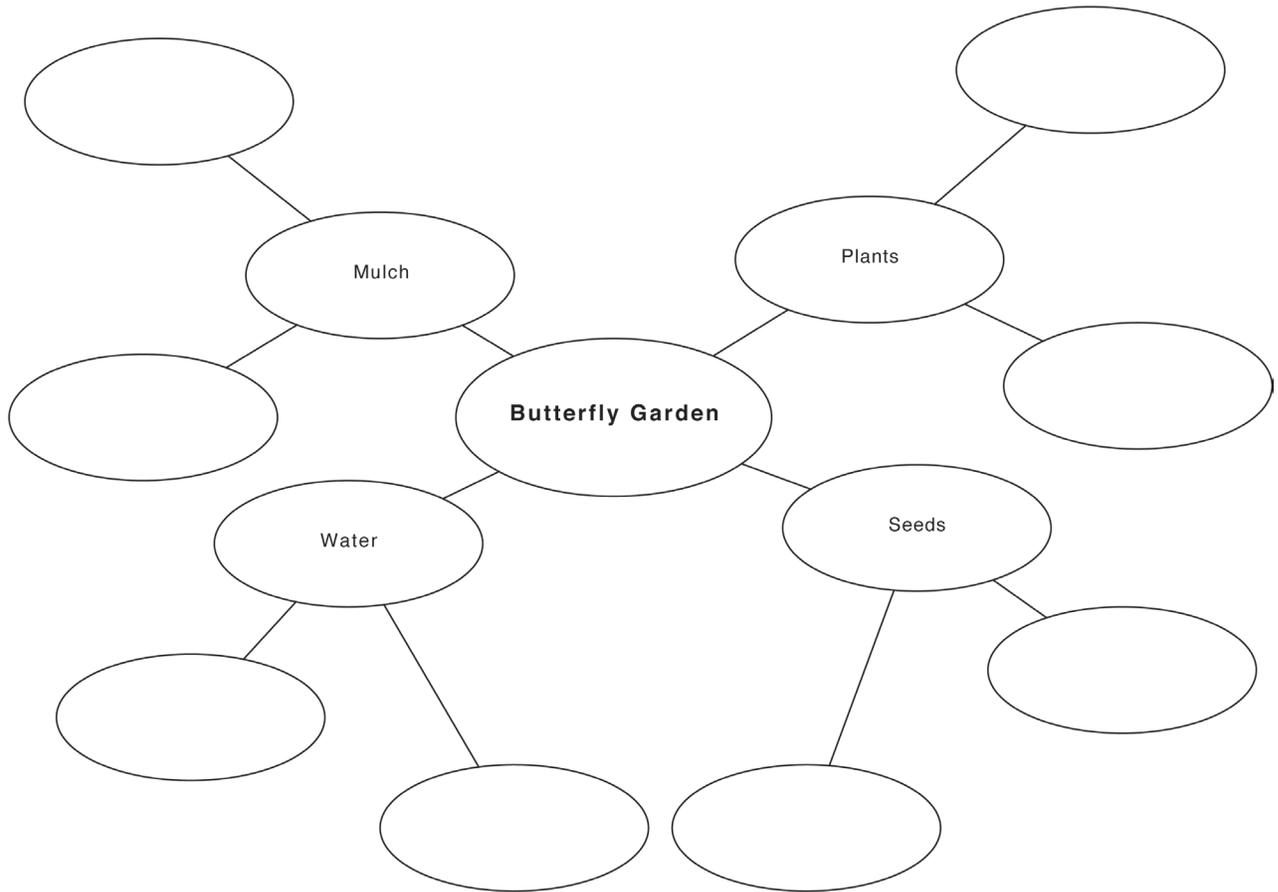
1. For this activity, you will use Diagramly (<http://www.diagram.ly/>), free idea-mapping software that is available online. Handout 7 provides a quick guide for using Diagramly. Commercial software for idea mapping includes Kidspiration® (designed for grades 1–5), produced by Inspiration® Software, Inc.
2. The first step in creating an idea map is to identify the main idea. In this case, your main idea could be a butterfly garden, a Texas garden, or a school garden.
3. Based on this main idea, brainstorm with your group the various elements (variables) that you need to consider as you plan your garden. Use your prior knowledge of your local climate, the plants suited to your climate, gardening, and butterflies.
4. Using Diagramly, record the variables and the connections among them. (If your group has visited the simulation center, you will already have identified some variables to consider in your planning.)
5. Once your group has exhausted all of its ideas, visit websites to conduct research so you can add depth and breadth to your idea map. The following sites focus on Texas gardening:
 - Aggie Horticulture (AgriLIFE Extension, Texas A&M System) - <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>
 - Melody's Gardening in Central Texas - <http://www.centraltexasgardening.net/trees.htm>
 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association: Offers the downloadable book *Broccoli to Butterflies: School Garden Templates* (2011), by Roxane Smith - <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org/what/bookB2B.html>
 - Texas Discovery Gardens: Wealth of information about the Butterfly House at the Texas Discovery Gardens in Dallas - <http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/>
 - Junior Master Gardener®: Although not Texas-specific, this site provides a curriculum for grades 3–8 that can be purchased. The Junior Master Gardener program has its national headquarters at Texas A&M and is sponsored by 4-H - <http://www.jmgkids.us/>
6. If you have already been to the spreadsheet center, you may want to modify your spreadsheet based on what you learn in this center.



Analysis With Idea Mapping (Center 2), cont.

Example Idea Map

A simple idea map for a Texas garden might include the following:



Can you expand on this idea further? Explain your thinking below:

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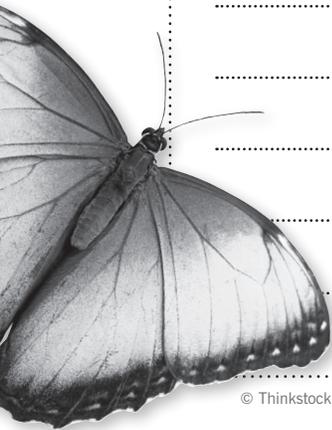
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