



Portfolio Activity 7.2

BUILDING A CONCEPT MAP

Materials Needed:

- Paper and pencil (with a good eraser!)
- Sticky notes, index cards, or scraps of cardboard (or a computer program like *Inspiration*)

A. Brainstorm a list of concepts related to a project you might want to do. You might consider the following:

producers
cow
consumers
sunflower
decomposers
fungus
plants
food chain
animals
herbivore
carnivore
omnivore
lion
algae
bacteria

B. Order the concepts from the most inclusive (superordinate) to the most specific (subordinate):

food chain
producer
consumers
decomposers

herbivores
carnivores
omnivores
plants
animals
sunflower
cow
lion
algae
fungus
bacteria

Don't worry if you don't get the order right the first time. It usually takes a number of trials to develop a concept map; use sticky notes or index cards to help you determine the hierarchy.

C. Show the relationships among the superordinate and subordinate concepts. Link the superordinate concept with subordinate concepts by using arrows and linking words. If there is a directionality to the relationship, use an arrow to show the direction of the directionality. Make sure to include cross-links. Figure 7.2 is an example.

D. Review the concept map you have developed. Share it with a classmate and discuss the connections. After this discussion, make revisions if necessary. Put this in your portfolio.