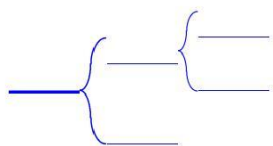


# Thinking Maps: Tools for Learning

This week's  
focus:

The Brace  
Map



Purpose:

Part to whole  
relationships

Key Words:

parts of  
take apart  
show structure  
physical  
components  
anatomy

Thinking process:

This thinking map helps to organize relationships of physical objects. It allows you to break a physical object into its components for a deeper analysis. As you move through the process of making this map, the parts of the object become "smaller" and more specific.

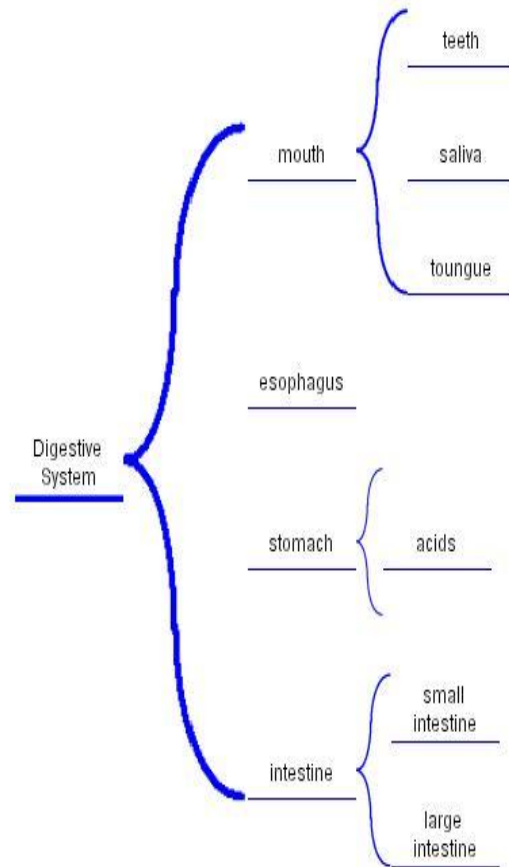
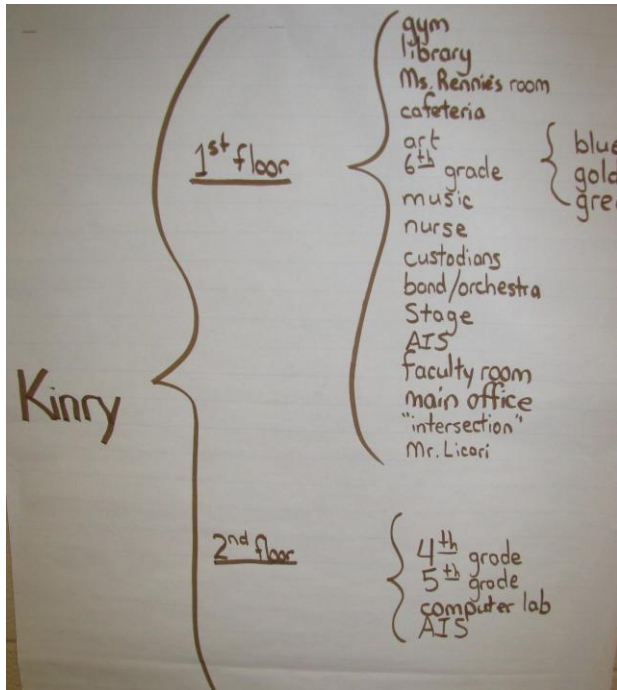
To be sure if you are using this map correctly, ask yourself if you are thinking about "concrete" physical relationships of objects.

How to create this map:

1. Write the name of the object to the left side (horizontally) and centered (vertically).
2. Draw a bracket after the object name. This bracket needs to be large enough to organize the "major parts" of the object.
3. After each "major part" separate the object into subparts as necessary using brackets to group together the parts.

Turn over to see examples and suggestions.

Here are examples of brace maps from classrooms.



Sample questions you could ask at home:

What rooms are found on each level of your house?

What are the parts of a banana split?

Select one of the questions to the left or come up with your own idea of how your child or your family could use this brace map.