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SPRING HILL  
COLLEGE

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# Study Strategies

Make Studying Work for You



## Concept Cards

*More than just note cards*

Concept cards require more information and are more effective as a study tool than the average note card. When creating concept cards, the following information should be included:

- Organizing term: an organizing term allows you to see how ideas are grouped. For example, creating a card for "Gettysburg" could be labeled with the organizing term "Civil War Battles."
- Source of Information: Including the source of information allows for easy reference in case more information is needed. Source information could be the page numbers from the textbook or the date of the lecture notes. It can also serve as a helpful reference when attempting to recall information.
- All material related to term: On the back of the card, all of the material that needs to be learned should be included. Write the information in an organized way in your own words. Most professors want to know more than just definitions.

### Front of Concept Card

Battles of the Civil War ← <i>Organizing Term</i>
Gettysburg ← <i>Term</i>
Chapter 5 pg 99-101 ← <i>Source of Information</i>
Lecture: 10/1/15 ← <i>Source of Information</i>

### Back of Concept Card

-Took place July 1-3 1863 in Gettysburg Pennsylvania
-Bloodiest battle
-Ended Lee's Confederate invasion of the North

**How to Study Concept Cards:** Organize the cards using the organizing term. Read the key concept on the front and flip it over and read the information on the back a few times. Then flip it back over to the front and see how much information you recall. Repeat with each card. Separate out what you know and focus on what you still need to master. Review with a class mate and quiz each other.

## Timelines

Timelines are useful when studying chronological events, especially in history, English or science courses like geology.

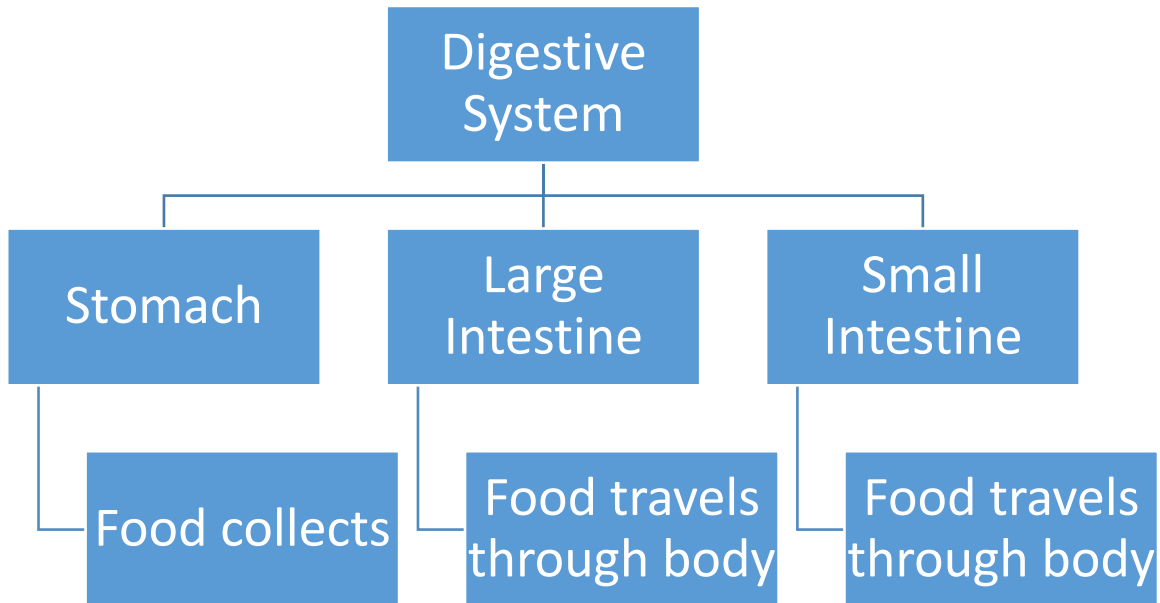
### The Chronology of Events Leading Up to the Great Depression

1923-1928	Jobless rates exceeded 10% in mass production industries
1920-1929	State and local taxes rise faster than personal income
By 1929	Unequal distribution of wealth, <b>10/29/1929:</b> Black Tuesday, Beginning of the Depression

**How to Study Timelines:** Use the dates as a cue and think or talk through the details. Use questions like who, what, when, where and why to ensure there is an understanding of all aspects of each event.

## Concept Maps

Concept maps are especially helpful for visual learners. Concept maps help when it is important to see the relationship between complex concepts, like those covered in science courses. These can be hand drawn or made on the computer.



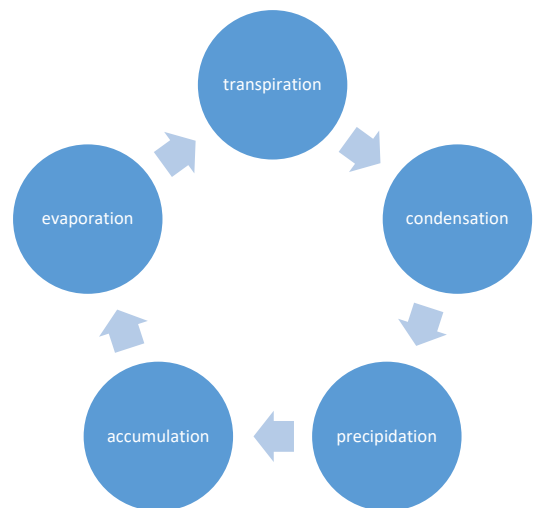
**How to study Concept Maps:** Rehearse one concept at a time. Then cover up the map except for the main idea. Talk through the information. Check your accuracy. Focus on how the concepts are related to each other.

**Other Examples of Concept Map Formats:**

*Process Map*



*Cycle Map*



## Charting

Charting is useful when comparing and contrasting ideas. When preparing for essays or exams where you are expected to compare and contrast ideas, charting can help organize and study ideas separately and also how they relate to each other.

TV Show Title	Hey Arnold	Rugrats	Sponge Bob Square Pants
Network	Nickelodeon	Nickelodeon	Nickelodeon
Main Characters	Arnold, Helga, Gerald	Tommy, Chuckie, Phil, Lil, Angelica	Sponge Bob, Patrick, Squidward, Sandy, Mr. Crabs, Plankton
Premise	Stories about middle school boy growing up in a New York neighborhood	Toddlers and their imagined adventures	Under sea life of a sponge and his friends

**How to Study Charts:** Charts can be studied by categories on the horizontal axis or the vertical axis. By studying each item individually first and then comparing it to others, charts help you to be prepared to compare and contrast different concepts.

## Question/Answer Strategy

In college, professors may not give study guides with questions. It is easy to make a study guide using the question/answer strategy. When creating questions, try to come up with questions that require more than a short 1-5 word answer if possible. Use this as an opportunity to think like the professor and ask questions that could be on the test.

### *Questions*

1. What is the significance of the Scarlet Letter Hester Prynne wears?
2. Why does Hester refuse to reveal who the father is?

### *Answers*

1. Signifies her status in society  
-Lets others know who she is and to avoid her
2. does not want to expose the father  
-would bring shame to someone who is a prominent member of society

**How to Study Question/Answer:** Fold the paper so that only the questions are visible. Ask yourself the questions or have someone else ask. Check to see how much you answered correctly. Continue to review until you know the material. Review in random order, as the questions on a test will most likely not be presented in the order the material was covered.