
Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are useful tools for any learner. They ask students to apply critical-thinking skills to create or complete a visual representation of information. Graphic organizers require that students read, write, and think, which engages them thoroughly in the learning process.

Graphic organizers appeal to different learning styles. Visual, verbal/linguistic, mathematical/spatial, and kinesthetic learners benefit by mentally and physically arranging and writing the material in the graphic organizer. Musical/rhythmic learners shine at finding and demonstrating patterns and relationships among different pieces of information. Intrapersonal learners think about their own learning process and reasoning when evaluating and categorizing information. And interpersonal learners gain insight by discussing their graphic organizers with others.

Graphic organizers help students see, organize, and evaluate their thinking, as well as information. Charts, tables, webs, maps, and other visual representations help cement students' knowledge. They are excellent planning and reviewing tools, and they provide a window into students' thought processes. For struggling students, graphic organizers are a convenient, compact way to store and review lots of information at once.

Information Web

Information gained from reading can be mapped in a web. Physically arranging and writing geographic material in a web helps students see the important features of a country or region by category. The web provides students with a graphically arranged set of lists that are easy to study and remember. Students can add or subtract information circles and lines as needed.

Venn Diagram

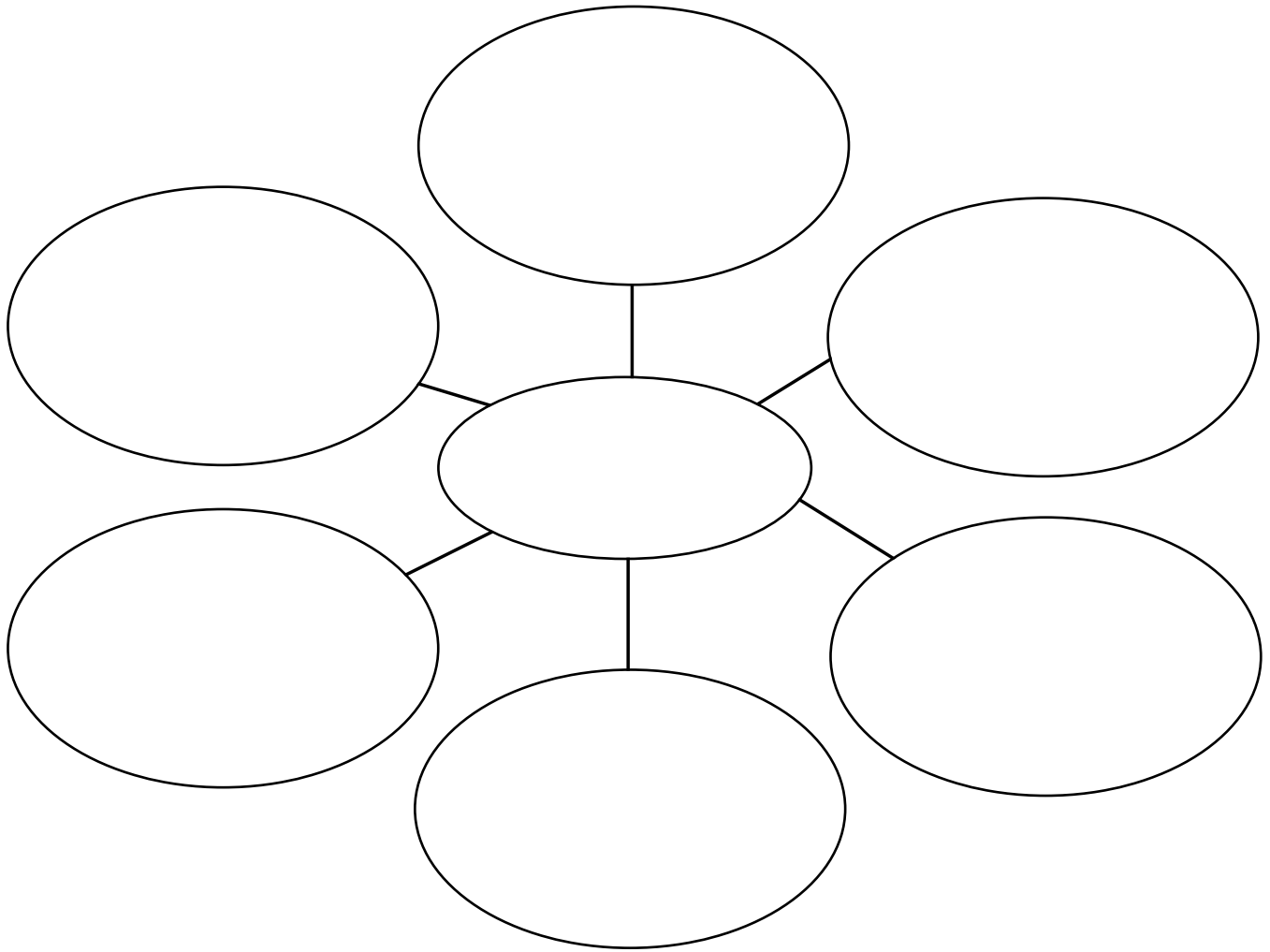
The Venn diagram will help students compare the similarities and differences between two different countries or regions. Students could choose to compare, for example, a West European country with a country of Eastern Europe. Or they could compare an arid nation with a well-watered nation, or an industrialized nation with a non-industrialized nation. The choices are myriad. When completed, the Venn diagram provides a clear review of the comparisons.

Comparison Matrix

The comparison matrix is another way for students to compare two countries or regions by geographical feature. Students could use completed information webs for each country or region to fill in the comparison matrix information. Again, the completed chart helps cement students' knowledge of the geography of the selected areas and provides an excellent reviewing tool.

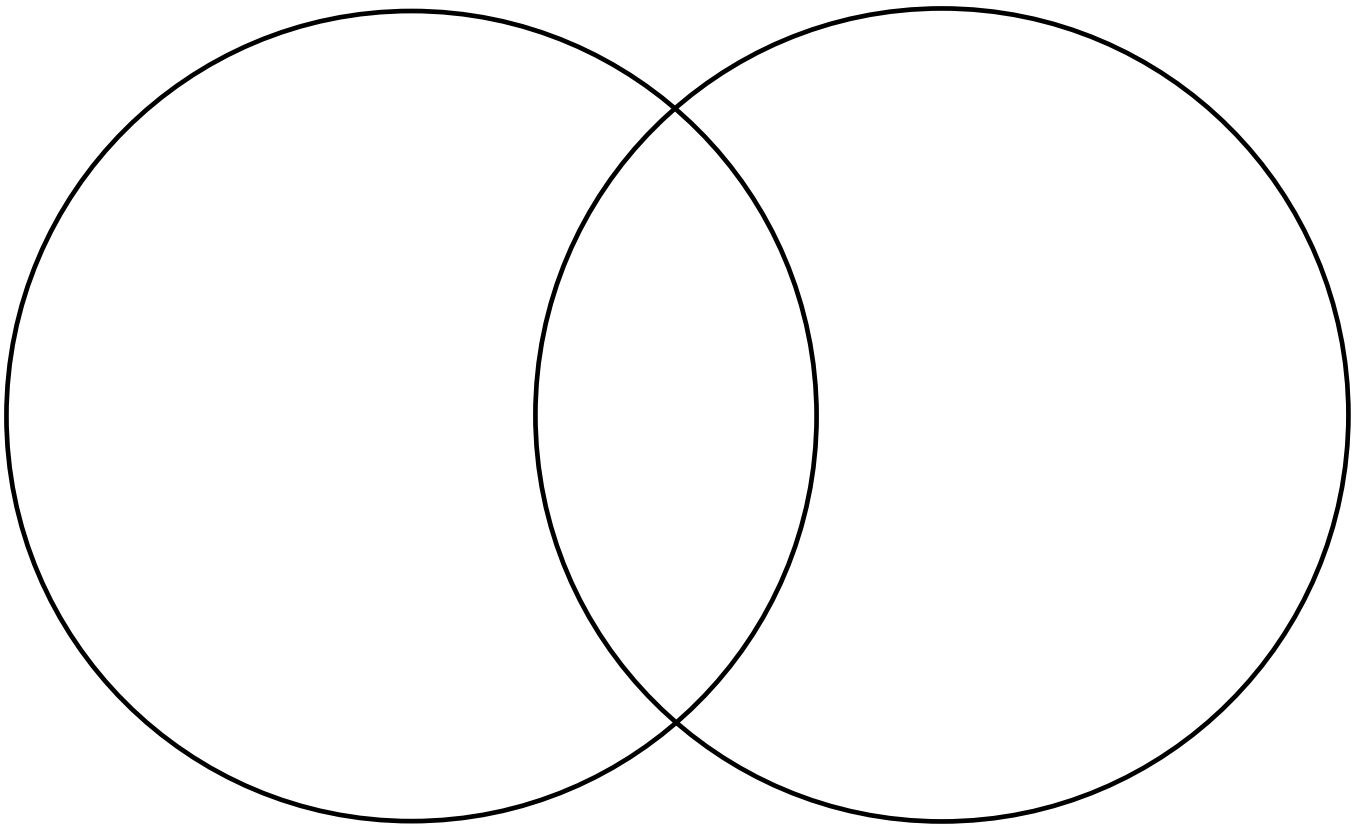
Information Web

Write your country or region in the center circle. Then label each smaller circle with a feature of that country or region such as “location,” “political divisions,” “population,” “bodies of water and waterways,” “landforms,” “climate types,” “agricultural products,” and “natural resources.” Write details about each of these features within each smaller circle.



Venn Diagram

Complete the Venn diagram below with information about the ways that two countries of your choice are different—and alike. Write similarities in the area where the circles intersect. Write differences in the areas where the circles don't intersect. Don't forget to label both circles.



Comparison Matrix

Write the country or region you are comparing at the top of each column. Write one feature at the start of each row, such as “location,” “political divisions,” “population,” “bodies of water and waterways,” “landforms,” “climate types,” “agricultural products,” and “natural resources.” Add or delete rows and columns as needed. Then fill in each box in the matrix with the relevant information.

	Country/Region	Country/Region
Feature		
Feature		
Feature		
Feature		
Feature		