

## Using Concept Maps for Exam Prep

You can use a concept map activity to help students prepare for exams. This can help students to see the connections between ideas for a given topic or unit and can allow you to identify and clarify any misconceptions students may have.

1. To begin, put students into groups and provide each group with sticky notes and a list of the top concepts for review.
2. Ask students to write one concept on each sticky note and then work together to create a concept map by arranging the notes in order of importance, labeling them, and indicating the connections between them.
3. After students have completed their concept maps, display the concept map you created to serve as a means of comparison for them. Some connection labels may differ and still be correct, so discuss your map and ask students to share any differences on their maps.
4. Ask students to share verbally or in writing responses to the following questions:
  - a. Which concepts do you feel you are most prepared to see on the exam?
  - b. Which concepts did you have the most difficulty connecting on your concept map?
  - c. What misconceptions or misunderstandings became clearer after discussing differences between your group's map and the instructor's map?
  - d. Which concepts or connections are still confusing to you, and how do you plan to address them when studying for the exam?
5. If students provide written responses, collect and review them before the exam. If many students are still having difficulty with a particular concept or connection, you may need to review it with the full class or make additional resources available to students before the exam. You might also consider adjusting the number of questions or point values assigned to concepts that the majority of students find confusing.