

DISCUSSION MAP

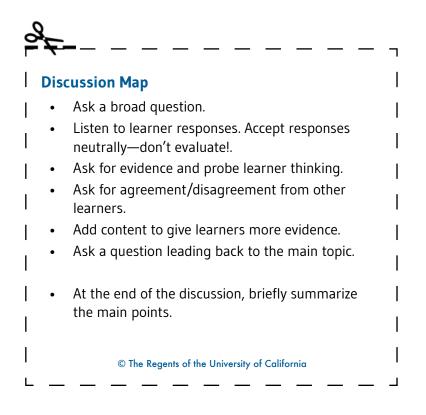
The Discussion Map is a useful structure for instructors to use to encourage learners to construct their own conceptual understandings, unpack their ideas, and generally stimulate discussion.

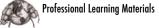
- Ask a broad question. Examples:
 - What happens to the mass of a log as it decomposes?
 - What might have happened to this deer?
 - Why might lizards lose their tails?
 - Should wolves be reintroduced to this ecosystem?
- Listen to learner responses. Accept responses neutrally—don't imply that responses are good or bad, correct or incorrect.
- Ask for evidence and probe learner thinking. Examples:
 - Can you say more about that?
 - What makes you think that?
 - Can you show us what you mean?
- Ask for agreement/disagreement from other learners. Examples:
 - Does anyone have a different idea?
 - What are some other possible explanations?
 - That's an interesting idea. Let's all Turn & Talk about that idea.
 - Can someone else explain that idea in a different way?
- Add content to give learners more evidence or ask a question leading back to the main topic. Examples:
 - Check out this key and see how many different types of lichen you can find.
 - What else should we consider to figure out where the mass of this log is going?
 - Are there any other parts of this deer that might offer clues about what happened to it?
 - Try thinking about it from a predator's perspective; can you think of another possible adaptation?
 - What other organisms in this ecosystem might wolves affect?
- When you are ready to end the discussion, briefly summarize the main points of what has been said and/or ask learners to summarize for you.



DISCUSSION MAP (continued)

Cut out this pocket-sized version to carry with you in the field.





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