

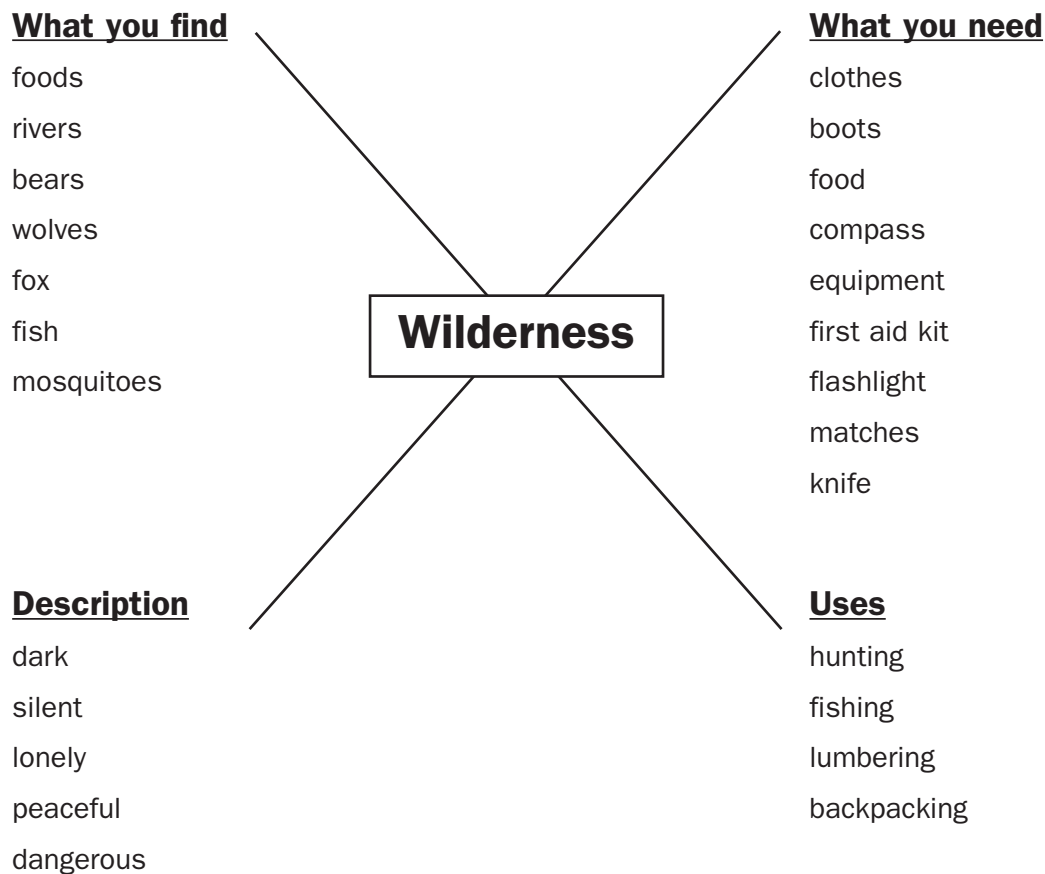
## Semantic Map

### What is a Semantic Map and why is it important?

A Semantic Map (Johnson & Pearson, 1984) is a visual representation of ideas related to a concept or topic. The map is an important aid because it helps students clarify information about a topic and provides a way to link ideas from students' previous experience with ideas in the text.

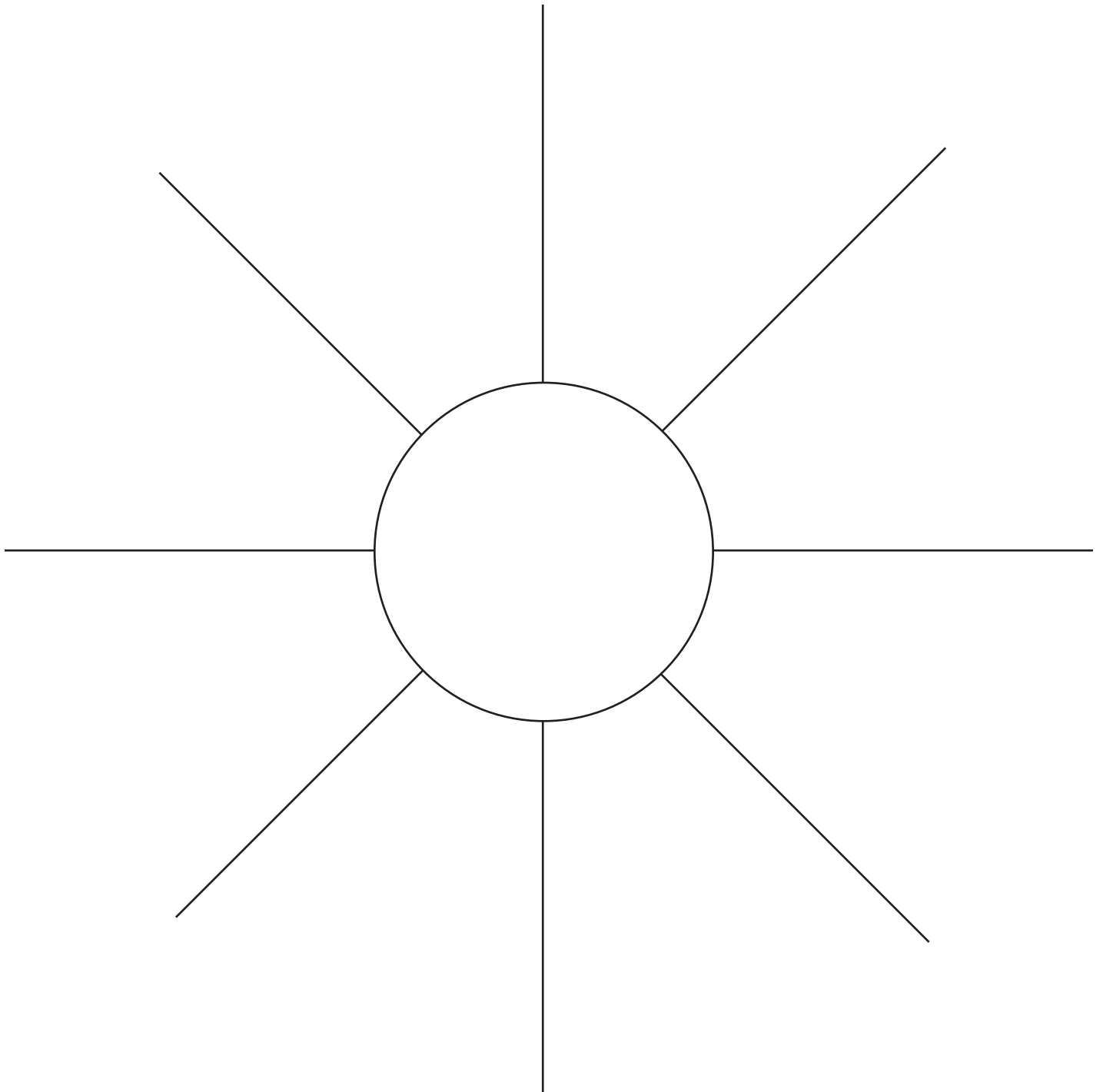
### How can I use a Semantic Map with my students?

Prior to reading, have students brainstorm information that they know about the topic. List the ideas students generate on the board or on chart paper. You might guide students by asking questions. For example, if the topic is "wilderness," you might ask, "How would we use the wilderness?" or "What is the wilderness used for?" Then, discuss how the ideas are related and categorize them. Help students categorize by asking, "What is this word describing or telling about?" For instance, students may conclude that *compass* and *books* describe what they would need in the wilderness. *Rivers*, *fox*, and *bears* describe what they might find there. List the categories and supporting information for each category on the map. After reading the text you can add information to each category and add new categories of information if appropriate. A Semantic Map for wilderness might look like this.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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