

## Concept of a Definition

### What is Concept of a Definition and why is it important?

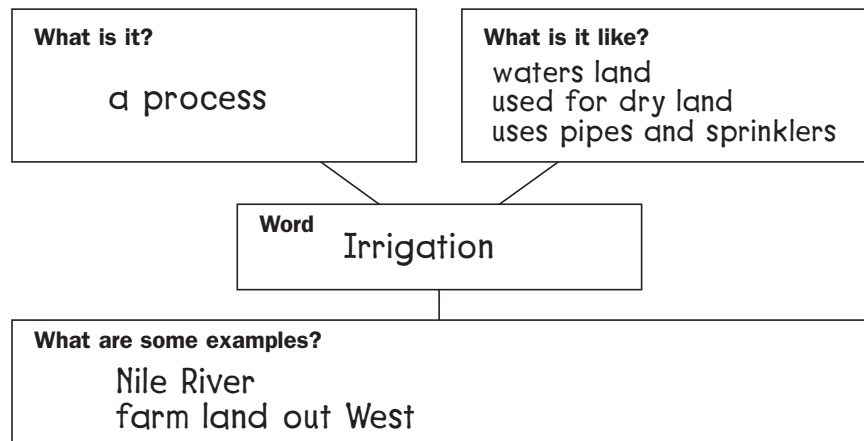
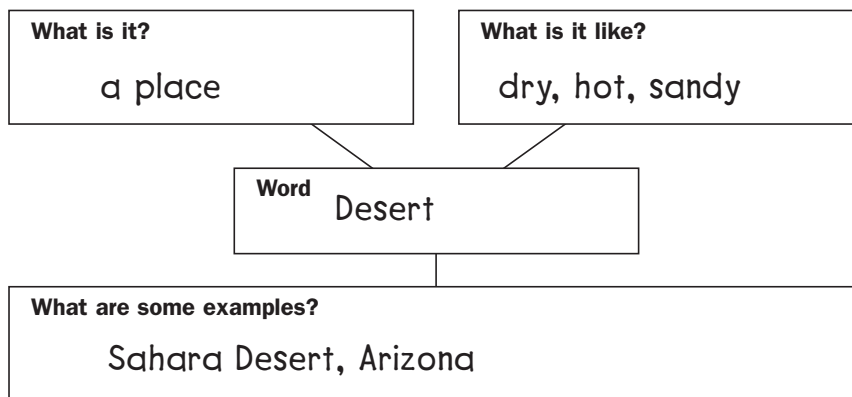
Concept of a Definition (Schwartz & Raphael, 1985) is a strategy that helps students define vocabulary words and understand the components of a complete definition.

### How can I use Concept of a Definition with my students?

First choose a word that students can define from the context of a reading passage, or tell them the definition of the word. Next, explain that a complete understanding of a word's meaning requires the ability to answer three questions about the word. Discuss these with students:

1. What is it?
2. What is it like?
3. What are some examples?

Read the passage and/or use the information from your discussion to answer the three questions. This strategy is easier to do with concrete words like *desert*, but you can also use it successfully with more abstract concepts such as *irrigation*. Following are examples of Concept of a Definition for the words *desert* and *irrigation*.



## Concept of a Definition (Technical)

### An Adaptation: Concept of a Definition—Technical

Concept of a Definition adapted for technical vocabulary is a streamlined version of the strategy in a format that helps students remember complex definitions.

### How can I use Concept of a Definition—Technical with my students?

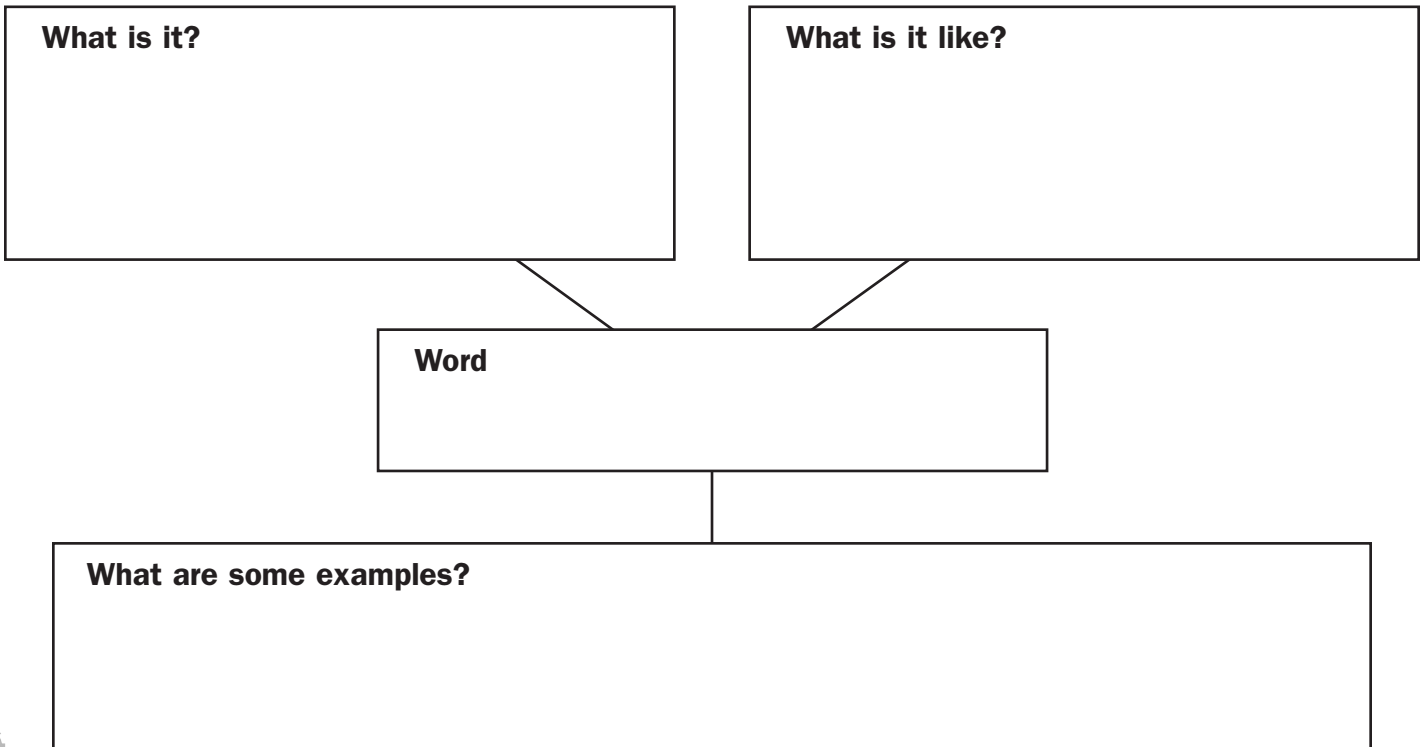
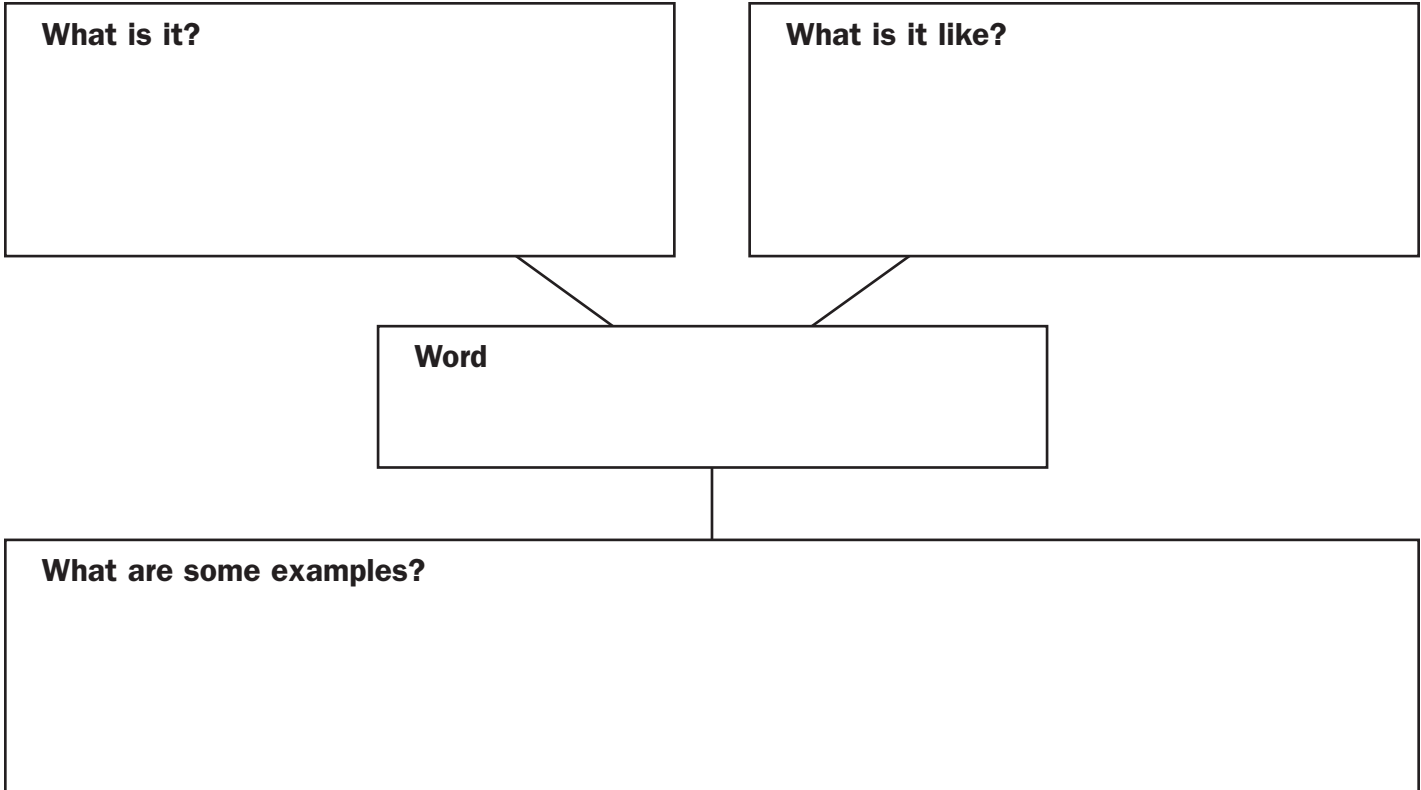
Choose a word from the text that represents an important concept. Discuss the definition of the word with students. Help students pick out important kernels of information in the definition that answer the three questions: *What is it?* *What is it like?* and *What are some examples?* Write the information that answers the questions in outline form. Following is an example of Concept of a Definition—Technical for the word *pioneer*.

<b>Word</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pioneer</li> </ul>
<b>What is it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person</li> </ul>
<b>What is it like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Settles a new region</li> <li>• Prepares it for development by others</li> </ul>
<b>What are examples?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Boone</li> <li>• Wilder (Little House)</li> </ul>



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

## Concept of a Definition



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

## Concept of a Definition (Technical)

**Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is it?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is it like?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**What are some examples?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is it?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is it like?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**What are some examples?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is it?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is it like?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**What are some examples?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

