

# PICTURE MAP ACTIVITY

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Picture mapping is an active reading strategy that we have used with students when they are reading nonfiction. We have students work in groups with the following directions:

- Identify the topic of your reading
- As you read, mark or list each key idea about the topic
- Pay attention to the Key Detail clues we have studied
  - Paragraphs often signal a new idea
  - First and last sentences of the text, and of paragraphs often contain clues to the key details
  - Highlighting, italics, bullets, and bold print are clues
  - Surprises, shifts, changes in focus or emphasis could be important
- Now, symbolize each key idea with a picture or a symbol – do this as simply as you can!

OR, if you get really good at this

- Demonstrate several key ideas with one picture or symbol  
Show connections between ideas or progression of ideas if the organization or structure of the text is important to the point it makes e.g. use a timeline, family tree, or Venn diagram
- Share your picture map and tell someone else what each picture or symbol means – see what they think

## ***Reflecting on the institute by creating a picture map***

It wasn't long before we realized that the picture map was also an excellent tool for reflective practitioners to use to represent their own learning, thinking and reflection on learning events or classroom practices. So...

We would like your team to create a picture map representing your journey up to and through this institute and where you hope to go next in your Intersections work. You might ask yourselves

- How and when did we become a team?
- Why did we come to this institute?
- What did we learn while we were here? (What lesson do we want to take back? What new tools do we have? What questions do we still have?)
- What do we hope to accomplish in the next year? (What is our vision? What concerns do we have? What might stand in our way? Who might help us? What are we most excited about?)

Then, represent the key ideas with pictures or symbols.

In 30 minutes everyone will post their picture maps in this room, have a chance to share their map, and listen as others share theirs.