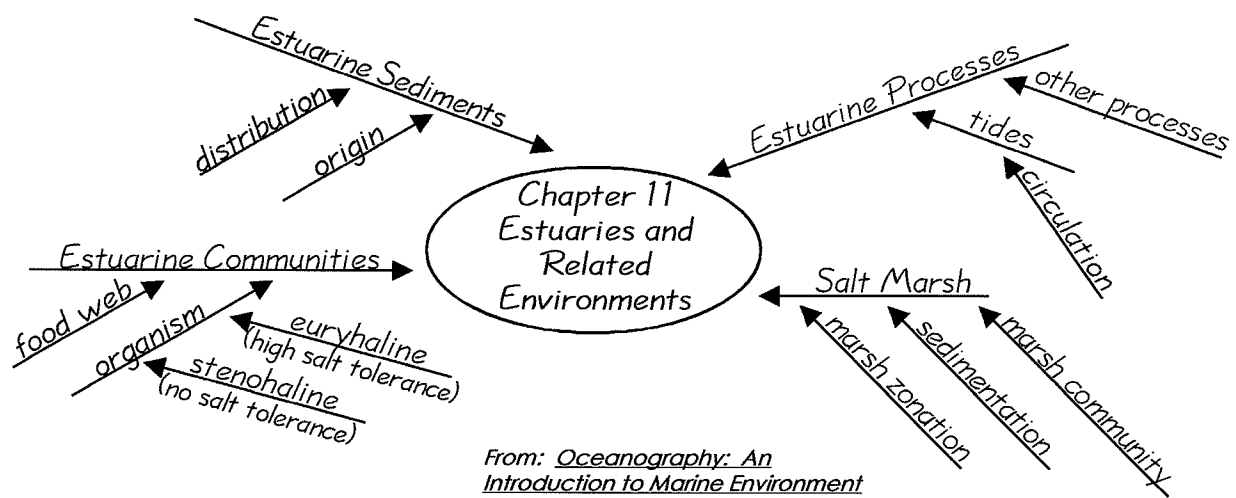


## Mapping Textbook Chapters:

Sometimes when reading textbooks you can get too overwhelmed with details and lose sight of the "big picture". Later when you try to review sections of the text that were highlighted, you find the information confusing and too tedious to memorize. If you make a map of each chapter in your textbook, you will have a visual representation of the important concepts and how they relate to each other; the whole and all of the parts together. This map will be easy for you to memorize because the information is shown from the general to the specific and because you created it.

Here's how you do it:

1. Get a big (2'x2') sheet of butcher paper. You can buy the nice colored bulletin board paper in the bookstore. Get some colorful markers (try the scented ones – they help with information retrieval) to write with.
2. In the center of the sheet of paper write the chapter title, then circle it. Now skim through the chapter to see how many sections there are and how long each one is. Draw a line radiating out from the title for each section, leaving enough space to add more details. Write the section name on each ray.
3. Begin reading one section at a time, diagramming the important information in each section.
4. Use color to differentiate the sections. Try not to write in sentence form. Use symbols, pictures, graphs and other visuals to summarize concepts.
5. Use a different color of ink to add outlines of the lecture notes where they fit into the textbook explanations. Put stars on these sections because they are likely to be a source for test questions.



From: *Oceanography: An Introduction to Marine Environment*  
by Richard A. Davis, Jr.

## Using Mapping to Organize a Paper:

1. In the center of a sheet of paper, write your thesis statement.
2. On lines radiating from the thesis, write questions or issues that will need to be addressed to cover the thesis topic. If you come up with a hundred lines of questions, it's a good indication that your thesis statement is too general. If you can think of only one of two questions then maybe it is too narrow, or there may not be enough information available on that topic. Longer papers will not necessarily have more question lines.
3. After you adjust your thesis statement, start with each question or issue you want to cover in the paper and brainstorm how you will accomplish that. Start by trying to answer your question, and jotting down how you plan to support your statements.
4. Look at your map to plan the order in which you want to present your points, and make notes on the logical transitions from one idea to the next.