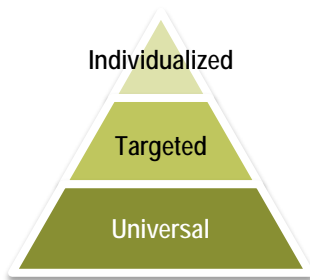


Concept Maps



A concept map is a visual organizer that illustrates the relationships between concepts and ideas. It helps students represent and better understand key words and discover new relationships between concepts. Concept maps begin with a main idea or concept and then branch out to show how the main idea can be broken down into subtopics.



A teacher's understanding of their students' learning needs helps determine when to provide universal, targeted, or individualized instructional strategies. For some students, universal instructional strategies may be enough to meet their learning needs. For others, more targeted instructional strategies are the starting point for implementing the curriculum. The strategy described is a guideline that teachers can use depending on the learning context.

Why use this strategy in an inclusive learning environment

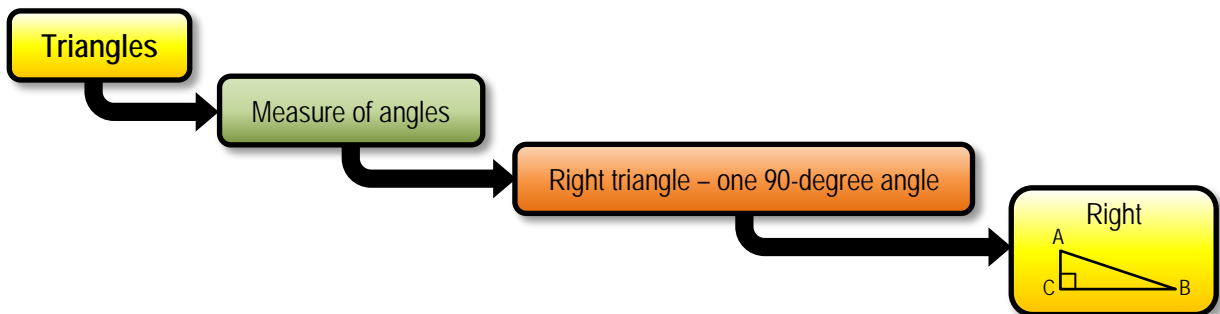
- Helps students to make connections between concepts.
- Helps students to remember key ideas through visual cues.
- Enables teachers to assess student understanding of topics before and after a unit of study.

How this strategy could be used in an inclusive learning environment

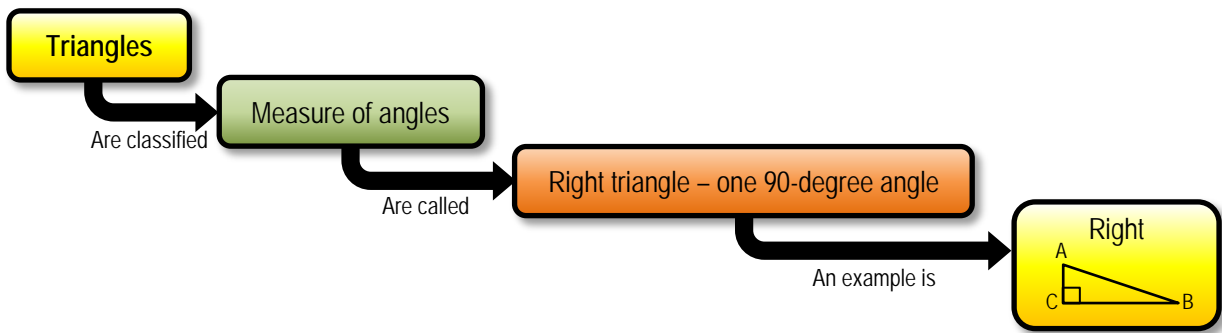
1. Key terms can be written at the top of the visual organizer.

Triangles

2. Concepts and examples can move from general to specific below the key term by drawing arrows between related concepts. This can end with an example at the bottom of the map.

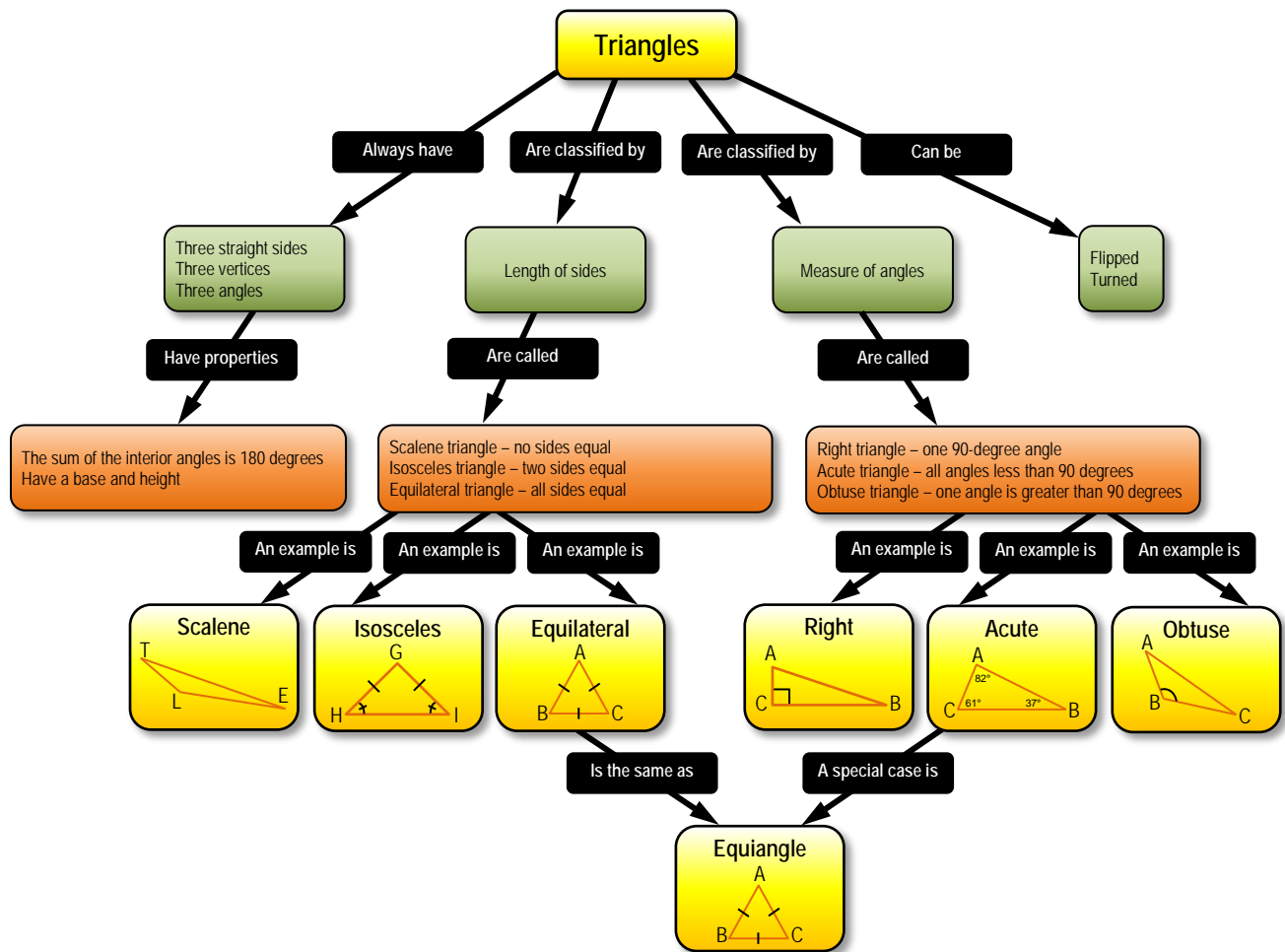


3. Linking words can be written below each arrow to explain the relationship between concepts.



4. Students can complete a concept map before, during and after a unit. Concept maps can be referred to for future study.

Example



Tips for individualized supports

- Use sticky notes or mind mapping software so students can rearrange concepts as they work out relationships and prioritize ideas.
- Have students post their concept maps and have other students comment and contribute to each other's concept maps to make new connections.
- Encourage students to access online math glossaries to support their understanding.



- Build math word walls with key words that have been outlined in concept maps.
- Provide academic language in an English language learner's first language using peer translation or a bilingual dictionary.
- Brainstorm and display a list of linking words for students to refer to. For example:
 - *are*
 - *can be*
 - *are always*
 - *examples are*
 - *are not*
 - *cannot be*
 - *are never*
 - *same as*

