



Making Connections

- This can be done before, during, and after learning content.
- Key words are already placed randomly on the page by the teacher.
- Students begin by selecting two words that are related, and drawing a line connecting those words.
- Students write their rationale for the connection between the two words on the connecting line to form a sentence/phrase to show how the words are connected in some way. (e.g., factories-----cities; factories attracted workers to cities).
- Students work individually to connect as many pairs of words as possible.
- Students may make connections with more than just two words in a pair.
- Students may wish to share their word diagrams and compare their thinking with others.

Creative suggestions that teachers have come up with as we worked with them in workshops:

- Once individuals have finished their connections, pair them up to share. They may then use a different color pen to include new connections they learn from the partner.
- Have students then read text pertaining to the words you chose. They can then add new connections with a third color!
- Once finished, the whole class shares!

A sample from the Revolutionary War era is provided below.

Revolution Making Connections

	patriots		loyalists	
	Boston Tea Party	King George III		Thomas Jefferson
	Declaration of Independence		tax	representation
Yorktown		George Washington		Continental Army
	life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness		neutral	colonists