The Unit Organizer Routine

The Content Enhancement Series

1995

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning Lawrence, Kansas 66045

The Unit Organizer Routine

AGENDA

PURPOSE:

To explain, model, prepare for, and practice the Unit Organizer Routine

OBJECTIVES:

1. Explain the Unit Organizer Routine.

2. State rationales for using the Unit Organizer Routine with students.

3. Describe and model the Unit Organizer Routine.

4. Develop an example Unit Organizer and present to colleagues.

5. Plan for Implementation of the Unit Organizer Routine.

RESOURCES

<u>The Unit Organizer Routine</u> guidebook from the Content Enhancement Series published by Edge Enterprises, Lawrence. KS.

Handouts for understanding and constructing Unit Organizers from the University of Kansas, Center for Research on Learning, Lawrence, Kansas.

Textbooks and/or content-area materials that can be referred to as drafts of the Unit Organizer are constructed.

Blank overhead transparencies and fine-tip overhead transparency pens for presenting draft Unit Organizers to colleagues.

OUTLINE:

Advance Organizer
Introduction to the Unit Organizer Routine
The Unit Organizer Device
The Unit Organizer Linking Steps: CRAFT
The Unit Organizer CUE-DO-REVIEW sequence
Get Ready: Preparing the Unit Organizer
Practice in drafting the Unit Organizer
Presenting the Unit Organizer

Get Set!: Teaching Students About the Unit Organizer Go!: Ongoing Use of the Unit Organizer Routine Win!: Ensuring "The Double Win!

Planning [or Implementation

Post Organizer

OVERHEAD MASTERS AND SUGGESTED SEQUENCE FOR THE UNIT ORGANIZER ROUTINE

The overheads in this sequence have been included to allow. for presentation of the Unit Organizer Routine with or without the use of the transparencies from the Content Enhancement Overview packet.

Advance Organiz	zer				
UO Overhead #01 The Unit Organizer Routine: Title Page					
Introduction to t		Organizer Routine			
UO Overhead	#02	Content Enhancement Definition			
UO Overhead	#03	Guidebooks in the Content Enhancement Series			
UO Overhead	#04	The Challenge			
UO Overhead	#05	Responding to the Challenge: The Unit Organizer Routine			
UO Overhead	#06	Supporting Research			
UO Overhead	#07	Components of the Unit Organizer Routine			
The Unit Organizer Device					
UO Overhead	#08	The Unit Organizer Teaching Device			
UO Overhead	#09	Unit Organizer Device Page 1 Example: Sectionalism			
UO Overhead	#10	Unit Organizer Device Page 2 Example: Sectionalism			
UO Overhead	#11	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Parts 1, 2, 3, & 4			
UO Overhead	#12	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Part 5			
UO Overhead	#13	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Part 6			
UO Overhead	#14	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Part 7			
UO Overhead	#15	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Part 8			
UO Overhead	#16	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Part 9			
UO Overhead	#17	Unit Organizer Device Defined: Part 10			
The Unit Organizer Linking Steps: CRAFT					
UO Overhead	#18	Purpose of The CRAFT Linking Steps			
UO Overhead	#19	The CRAFT Linking Steps			
UO Overhead	#20	Understanding CRAFT			
The Unit Organizer The CUE-DO-REVIEW Sequence					
UO Overhead	#21	CUE-DO-REVIEW sequence			
Get Ready: Preparing the Unit Organizer					
UO Overhead	#22	Ready?			
UO Overhead	#23	Unit Organizer Science Example: Vertebrates			
UO Overhead	#24	Unit Organizer Social Studies Example: Democracy			
UO Overhead	#25	Unit Organizer Language Arts Example: Short Story			
UO Overhead	#26	Unit Organizer Science Example: Decimals			
UO Overhead	#27	Unit Organizer Implementation Options			

Either at this point or when the Linking Steps are first explained, show how one set of Unit Organizer forms have numbers indicating the suggested order in which the CRAFT Linking steps are completed. Also draw attention to the second set of Unit Organizers on which the numbers have been omitted. Teachers can use these Unit Organizer forms to determine their own sequence for constructing the Unit Organizer with students.

Get Set!: Teaching Students About the Unit Organizer

UO Overhead

#28

UO Overhead

#29

Unit Organizer Modeling Example: Cooperative Groups

Go: Ongoing Use of the Unit Organizer Routine

UO Overhead

Go! #30

UO Overhead

#31

Implementing the Unit Organizer

UO Overhead

General Use Tips #32

UO Overhead

Presentation Checks #33

Win: Ensuring "The Double Win"

UO Overhead

#34

The Double Win

Blank Unit Organizer Forms

UO Overhead

#35

Blank Unit Organizer

UO Overhead

#36

Blank Expanded Unit Map

These overheads can be inserted anywhere in the training sequence to illustrate the design or use of the blank Unit Organizer. For your convenience, the overhead number has been omitted so that you can insert the appropriate overhead among the overheads. For example, if you insert one of these after Overhead #17, you can number the inserted overhead 17B.

UO Overhead Unit Organizer Page with numbers

UO Overhead Unit Organizer Page 2 with numbers

UO Overhead Unit Organizer Page 1 without numbers

UO Overhead Unit Organizer Page 2 without numbers

The Unit Organizer Routine

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≜ Content Enhancement

A way of teaching an academically diverse group of students in which:

- both group and individual needs are valued and met;
- the integrity of the content is maintained;
- critical features of the content are selected and transformed in a manner that promotes student learning; and
- instruction is carried out in a partnership with students.

Guidebooks in the Content Enhancement Series

Routines to help students organize and framinformation and tasks:

The Course Organizer Routine

The Unit Organizer Routine

The Survey Routine

The Lesson Organizer Routine

The Framing Routine

Routines to help students understand concepts and information:

The Concept Anchoring Routine
The Concept Mastery Routine
The Concept Comparison Routine
The Clarifying Routine

Routines to help students remember and respond:

The Recall Enhancement Routine The Quality Assignment Routine

The Challenge

Many students have difficulty:

Relating new information to what they have experienced and learned.

Seeing the "big ideas" among the details.

Translating the "big ideas" into words, phrases, and concepts that make sense to them.

Identifying how information in a unit is structured.

Seeing the relationships between different sets of information in a unit.

Generating questions to help them focus their learning.

Projecting and managing time in order to complete tasks.

Keeping the "big ideas" and structure of a unit in mind as they progress through the unit.

Responding to the Challenge

The Unit Organizer Routine helps students to:

Relate unit content to previous and future units and to bigger course ideas.

Understand the main idea of the content through the use of a meaningful paraphrase of the "big idea" of the unit.

See the structure of the unit's content.

Focus attention on important relationships in the content of the unit.

Generate questions that relate to learning the big ideas of the unit.

Build a schedule to plan time and task completion.

Keep the "big ideas" and structure of the unit in mind as unit content is learned.

Supporting Research

- The Unit Organizer Routine was studied in secondary content-area classes (grades 7-12) characterized by diversity.
- In each study, teachers learned the Unit Organizer Routine easily and student learning gains were observed by both teachers and researchers.
- In each study, students gained an average of at least 10 to 20 percentage points on tests or tasks that required students to demonstrate learning. Teachers continued using the routine after the studies were completed.
- These results were achieved when teachers: (a) received 2-3 hours of instruction in the routine, (b) had opportunities to discuss the routine with colleagues, (c) spent the necessary time to plan and use the routine for more inclusive teaching, (d) taught students how to participate in and use the routine, and (e) used the routine regularly over time.
- In general, the greatest gains were seen in classes where teachers had the highest expectations for student learning and were consistent in their use of the routine over time.

Components of The Unit Organizer Routine



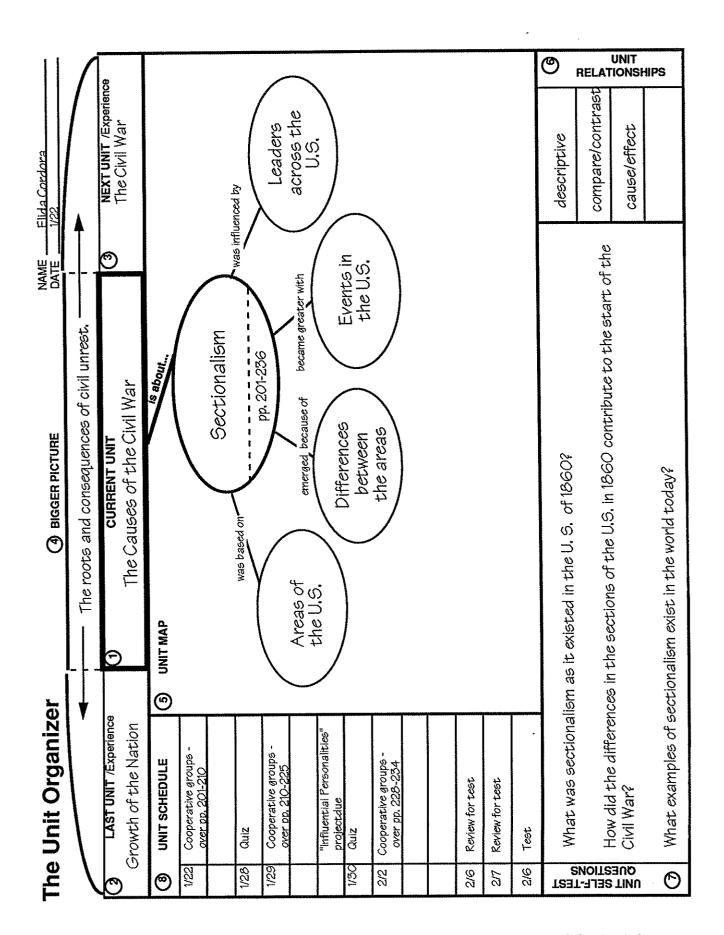


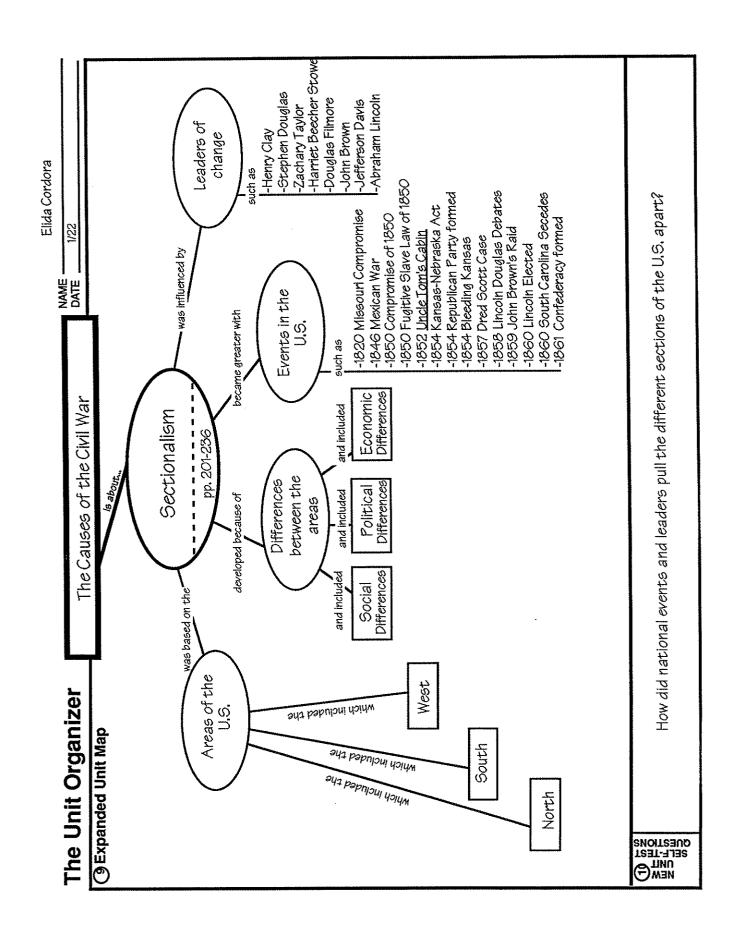


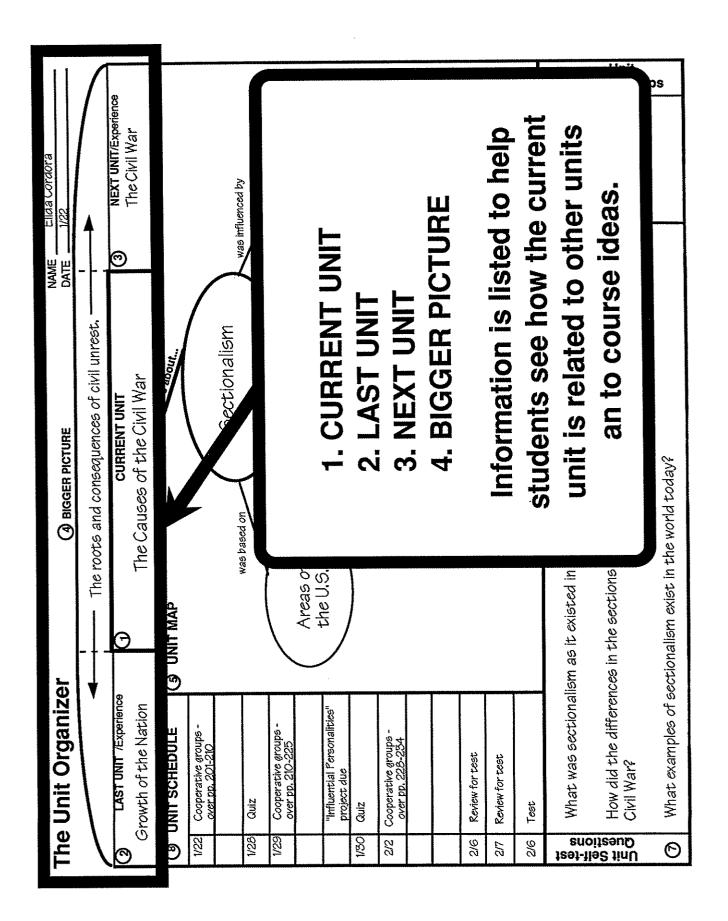


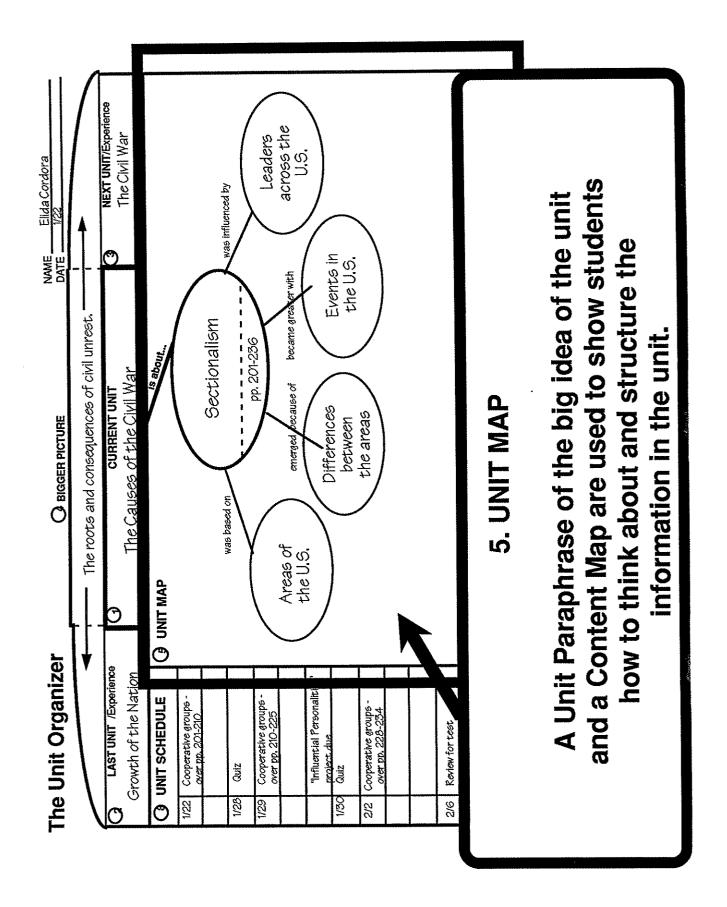
Is an visual device that:

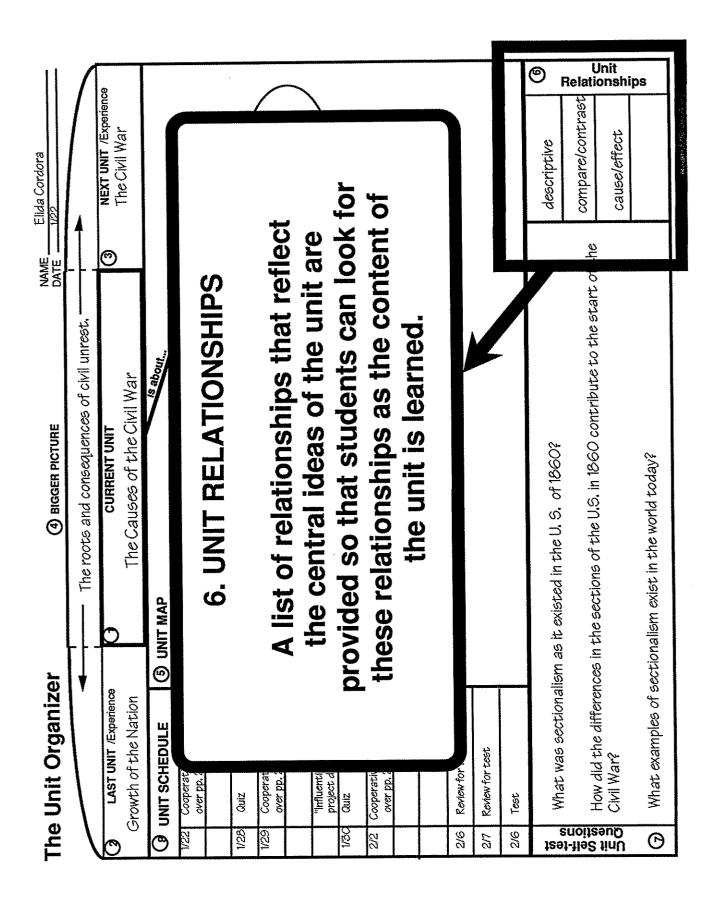
- is used under teacher guidance
- focuses attention on critical outcomes
- didentifies critical content features
- prompts elaboration on critical points
- helps make relationships concrete
- is designed to enhance student...
 - ...organization
 - ...understanding
 - ...remembering
 - ...responses
 - ...belief in the value of the content

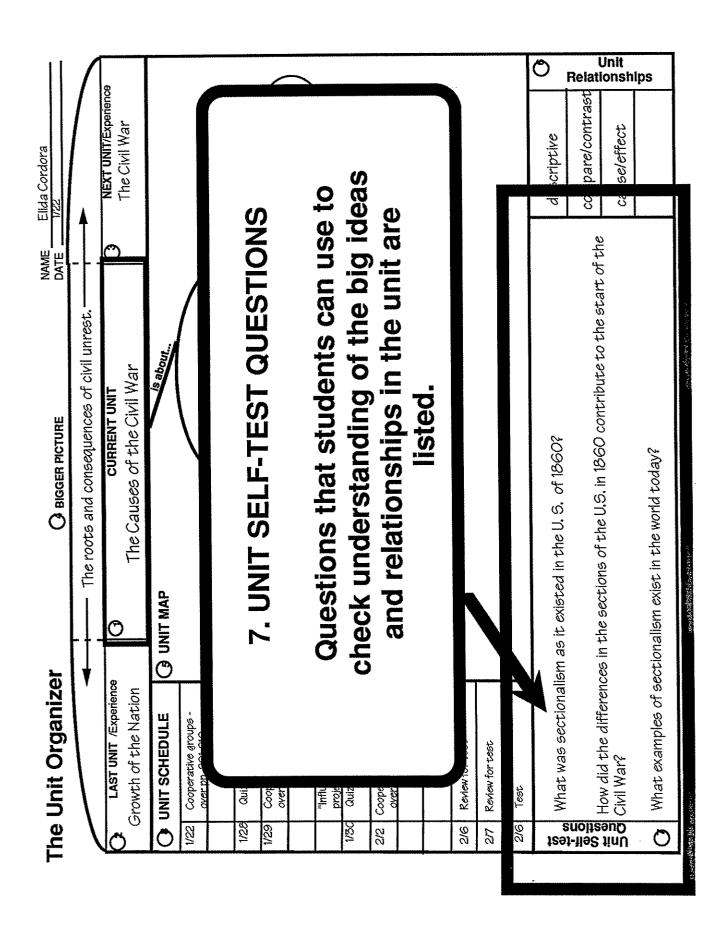


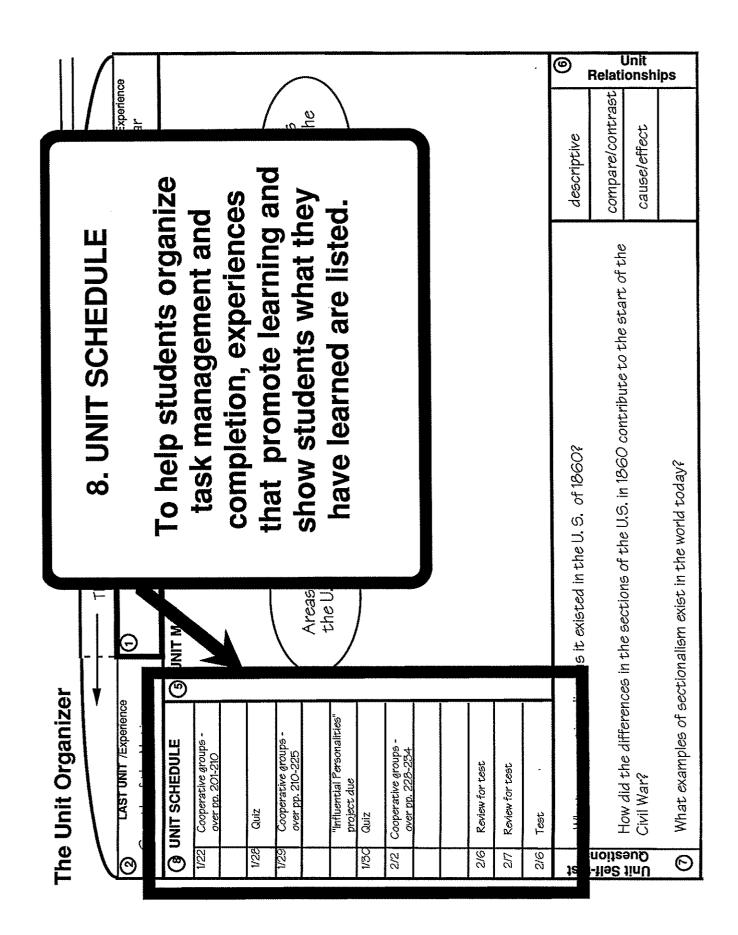


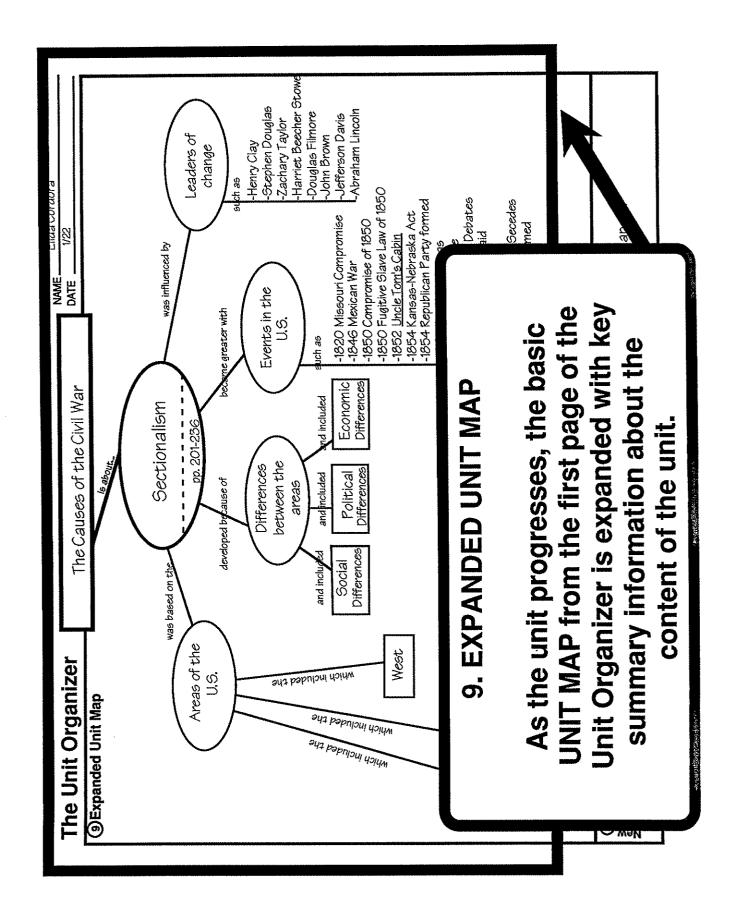


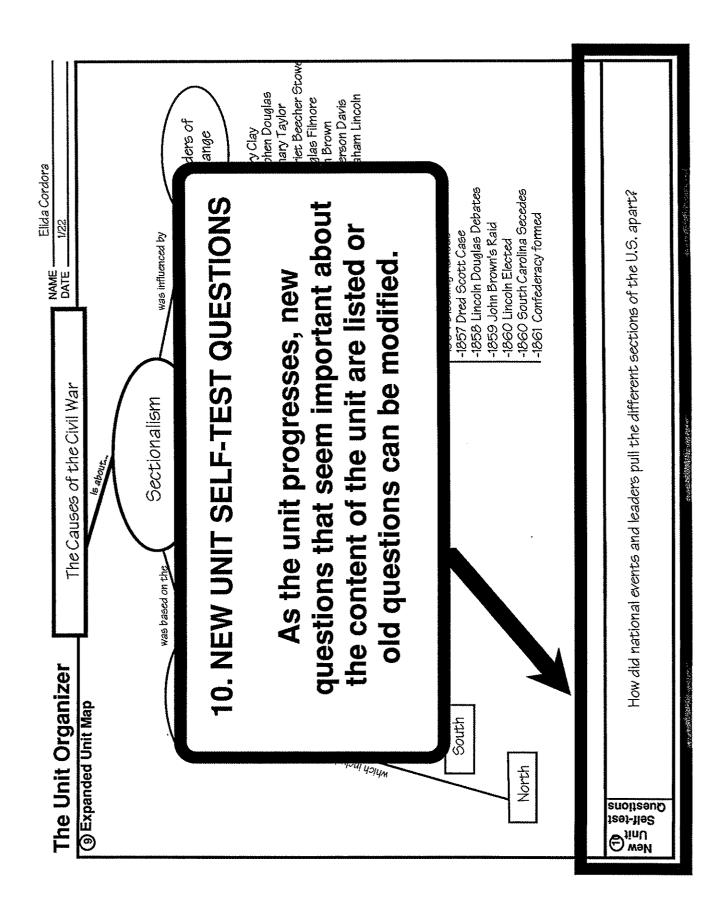














Guide the teacher in ways to:

- present the Unit Organizer effectively
- involve students in constructing and using the Unit Organizer
- elicit and make connections to the prior knowledge of students
- focus student attention on learning



The CRAFT Linking Steps

STEPS

- 1 Create a context
- 2) Recognize content structures
- (3) Acknowledge unit relationships
- 4 Frame unit questions
- 5 Tie content to tasks

Understanding CRAFT

CREATE A CONTEXT

Explore how the information in this unit fits with previous, future, and bigger learning

RECOGNIZE CONTENT STRUCTURES

Identify how to think about and structure the information to be learned in the unit.

ACKNOWLEDGE UNIT RELATIONSHIPS

Explore relationships that are or might be important in the unit.

FRAME UNIT QUESTIONS

Generate and discuss the types of questions that reflect what the unit is really about.

TIE CONTENT TO TASKS

Identify a schedule of tasks to be completed and how these tasks connect to learning the content.



The CUE-DO-REVIEW Sequence

The overall instructional process that guides use of the Unit Organizer and CRAFT Linking Steps.

This instructional process involves:



CUE The teacher announces the Unit Organizer and explain

Unit Organizer and explains its use.



DO

The teacher and class collaboratively construct the Unit Organizer device using the CRAFT Linking Steps such that the content is connected or "linked" to the needs and goals of students.



Information presented in the Unit Organizer is reviewed and confirmed.

Ready?

Decide when to use the routine. Collect needed materials.

Construct a draft.

Enter the name of the Current Unit. Enter the name of the Last Unit. Enter the name of the Next Unit. Identify the Bigger Picture. Draft the Unit Map.

Develop the Unit Paraphrase
Develop the Content Map

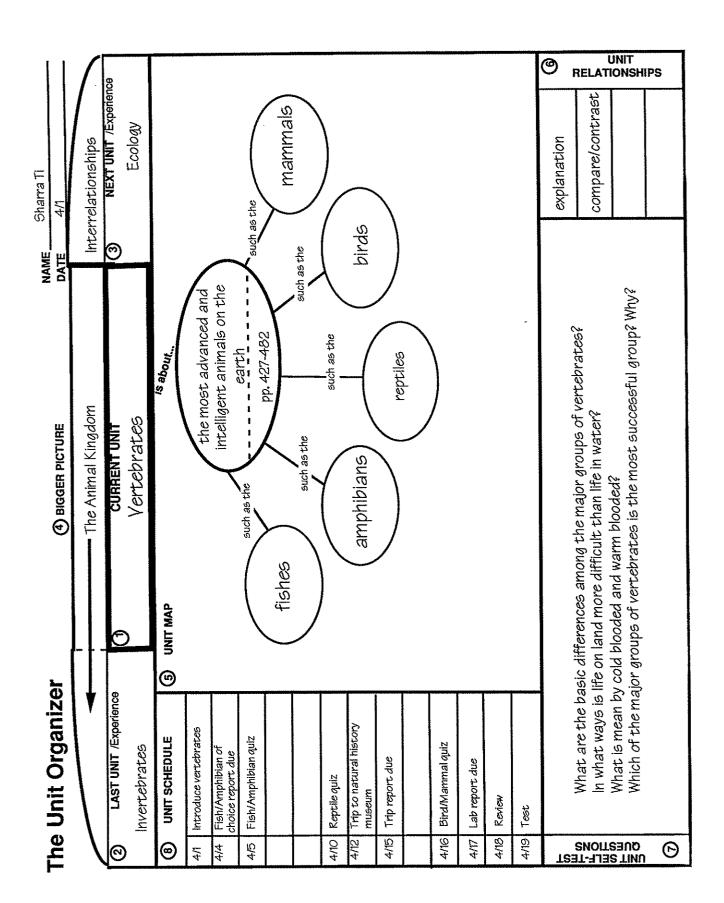
☆keep it simple

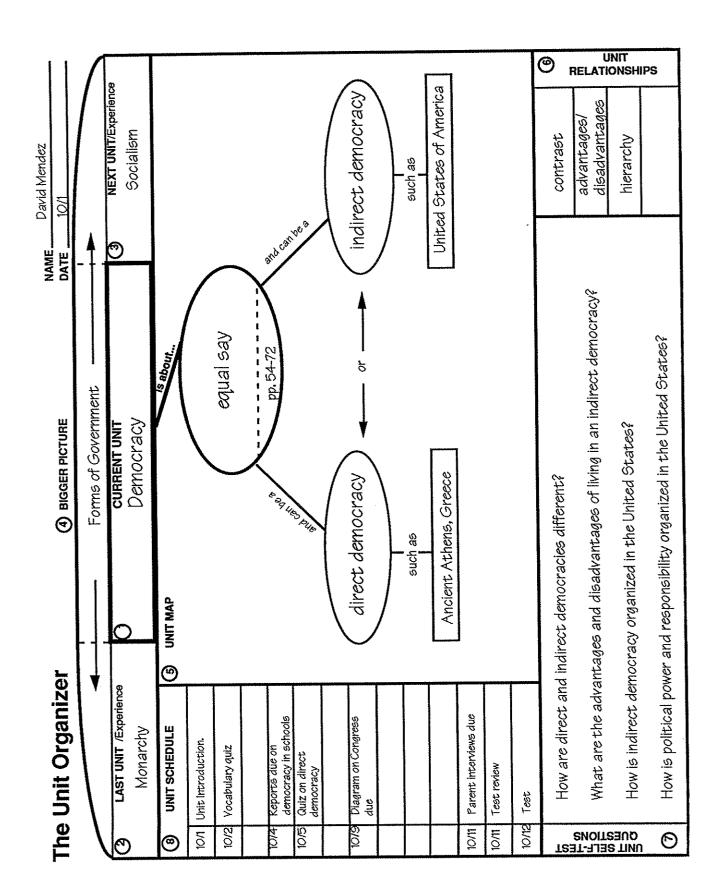
☆keep it to seven or fewer parts

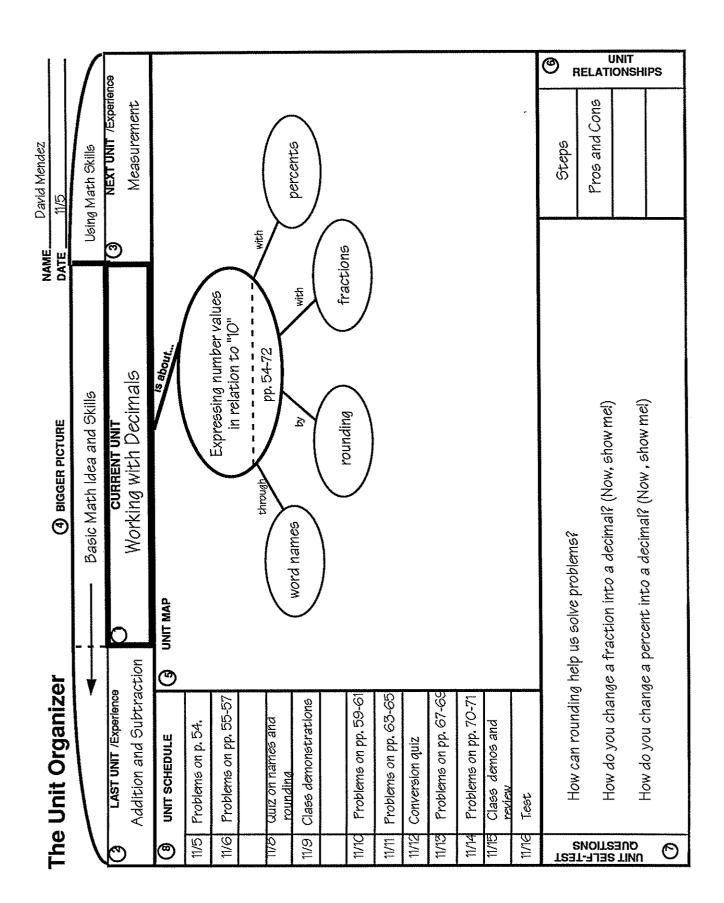
☆place line labels

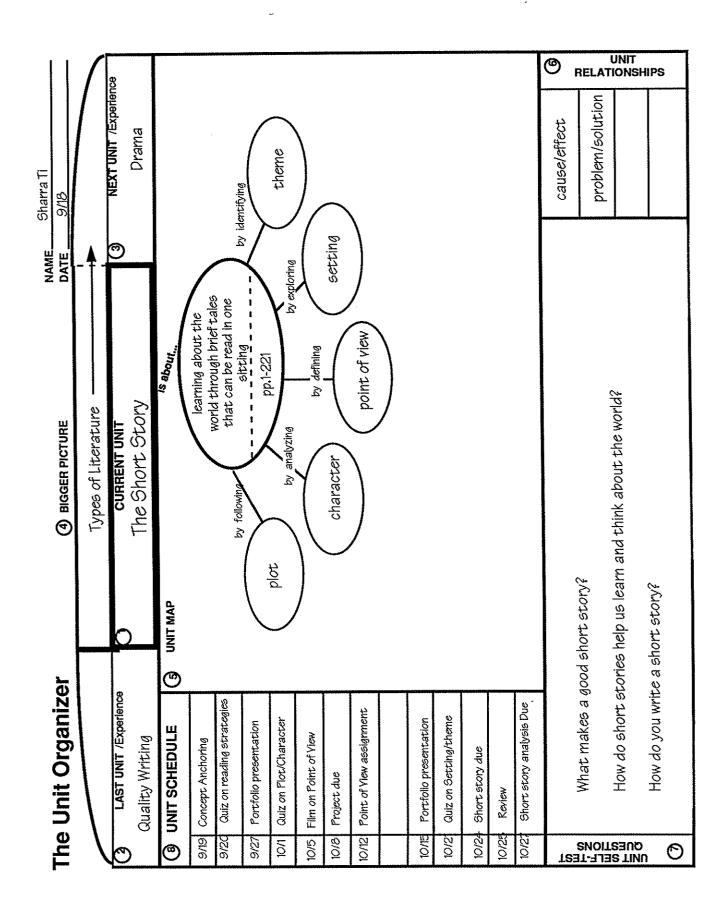
Enter the Unit Relationships.
Enter the Unit Self-test Questions.
Create the Unit Schedule.
Prepare the Expanded Unit Map.
Enter New Unit Self-test Questions.

Prepare Presentation Notes









Unit Organizer Implementation Options

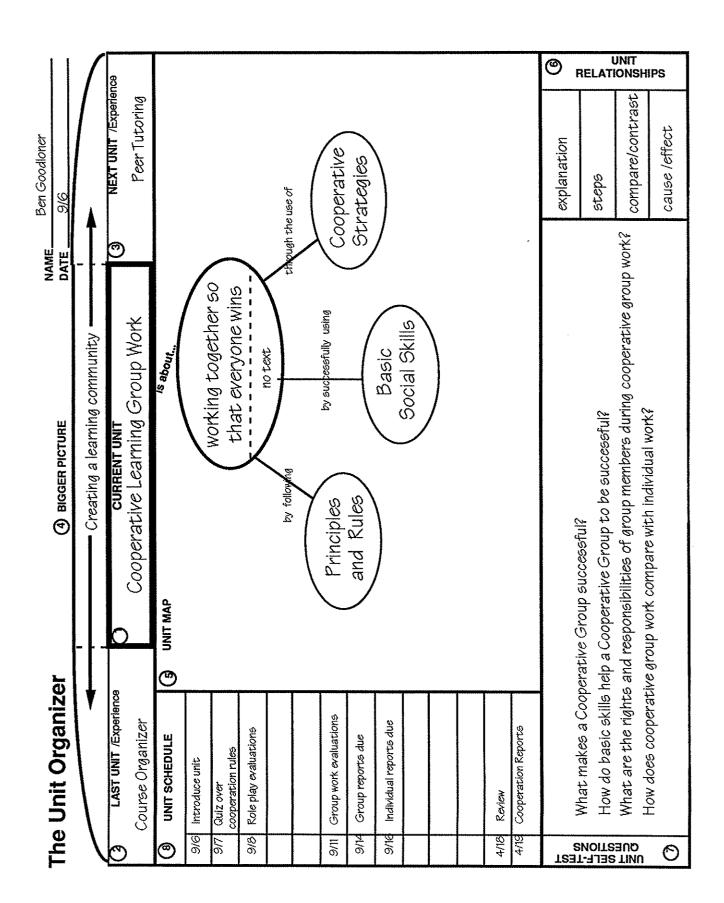
- 1. A blank Unit Organizer form on an overhead or chalkboard is used and the unit framework is built from scratch; students construct their own organizer on blank paper.
- 2. Blank Unit Organizer forms are distributed to students and they build a unit framework as the teacher guides the class using a Unit Organizer form on an overhead or chalkboard.
- 3. Partially completed Unit Organizer forms are distributed to students; the teacher and students add additional information as the Unit Organizer is created.

Set?

How to choose material. How to introduce Unit Organizers.

- 8 Describe how you will <u>CUE</u> their use of Unit Organizers.
- 8 Describe and model how you will <u>DO</u> the routine.
- 8 Explain how you will <u>REVIEW</u> the information with the Unit Organizer.

How to Debrief.



Go!

Specific "CRAFT" Guidelines for:

"Launching the Unit"

"Floating the Unit"

"Tying Up the Unit"

General Use Guidelines:

Use the routine explicitly.

Be creative

Beware of pitfalls.

Evaluate your use of the routine.

Implementing the Unit Organizer Routine

	Launching the Unit	Floating the Unit	Tying Up the Unit
GOAL	The new unit is introduced to students using the Unit Organizer Routine.	Attention is drawn to unit ideas as each unit section is completed or introduced.	The Unit Organizer is used to review unit content and promote student confidence.
C	The CURRENT UNIT is related to the LAST UNIT, the NEXT UNIT, and a BIGGER IDEA in the course.	Each unit section is reviewed and in conjunction with the UNIT MAP.	The UNIT MAP, the EXPANDED UNIT MAP, and relationships to other units and ideas are reviewed.
R	The UNIT MAP is revealed through a Unit Paraphrase and a Content Map.	Key information is added to the EXPANDED UNIT MAP as part of section review or introduction	Students construct personal unit maps without looking at the Unit Organizer and then check accuracy.
A	The UNIT MAP is explored and UNIT RELATIONSHIPS are identified.	UNIT RELATIONSHIPS are confirmed and highlighted on the EXPANDED UNIT MAP.	Students explain, edit, and revise personal content maps with others.
F	UNIT QUESTIONS reflecting central ideas of the unit are constructed.	UNIT QUESTIONS are answered and answers to previously answered questions are improved.	Students answer the UNIT QUESTIONS and generate new self-test questions.
1	The UNIT SCHEDULE is constructed and explained.	Status of task progress, completion, and student satisfaction wit learning is checked.	Class discusses how unit task promoted learning and how learning could have been improved.

General Use Tips

- ∀ary the colors in the construction of the Unit Map to distinguish parts or levels.
- Construct the Expanded Unit Map using different geometric shapes to distinguish levels of information. For example, circles can represent the first level, squares can represent the second level, and triangles can represent the third level.
- For more complex Unit Maps and Expanded Unit Maps, draw empty geometric shapes on a blank Unit Organizer and make copies for students. As the Unit Organizer is completed, simply help students fill in the geometric shapes with appropriate unit content.
- Once some students learn how to use the Unit Organizer, they will want to use it in other classes. To encourage students to independently use the Unit Organizer in your class or other classes, have a stack of blank Unit Organizers available.

Presentation Checks

- **The Example 2** Large enough to see from the back of the class?
- **Words, symbols, and lines legible?**
- Relationships clearly depicted?
- Ideas presented concisely and meaningfully?
- The description of the second symbols?
- Students could read and explain the parts?
- **The state of the state of the**
- All words and labels were read?
- **Pointed to the important parts of the visual?**
- © Cued students to take notes around the Unit Organizer?
- Made complete statements about each Unit Organizer part?
- Explained the relationships shown in the content map?

The Double Win!

STUDENTS WIN!

Are students learning what they are supposed to be learning? Are students personally satisfied with what and how they are learning? Do students' grades reflect what they have really learned?

YOU WIN!

Select a "growth target."
Choose a way to learn.
Choose a support system.
Plan for confidence building.
Debug.
Maximize the challenge.
Take ownership of the routine.

