

# Aha! See the Big Picture with Textmapping!

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## What is textmapping?

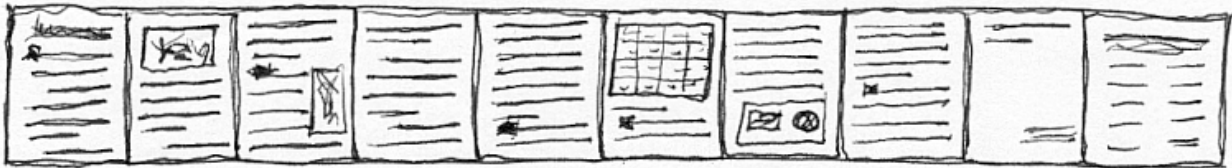
Textmapping is a graphic organizer technique that can be used to teach reading comprehension, study skills, and course content. It is practiced on scrolls, which are alternative book formats.

## Why use textmapping?

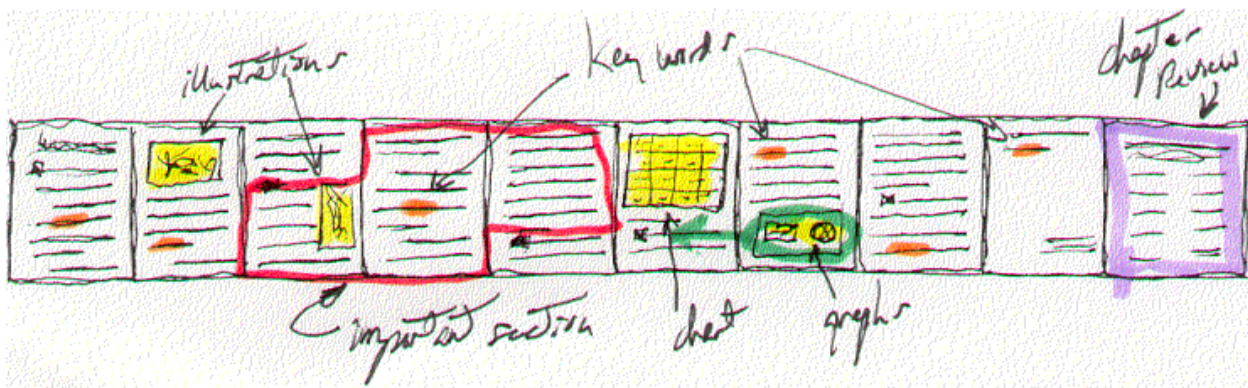
- Low-tech
- High interest
- Easy to learn
- Easy to teach
- Easily adapted
- Active
- Powerful

## Procedures for Textmapping

1. Make a scroll.



2. Map it.



**What might we look for when mapping informational text?**

- Major content divisions
- Illustrations and captions
- The textstream
- Headings and subheadings
- Other indicators of sections and chunks
- Introductory and overview text
- Questions
- Summaries
- Key words
- Signal words

**What might we look for when mapping narrative or fiction text?**

- Unknown words
- Known words
- Major divisions
- Chapters
- Plot line
- Cues for setting
- References to characters
- Cues to characterization
- Cues to themes

**Where can I learn more?**

[www.textmapping.org](http://www.textmapping.org)

The Textmapping Project

**What do teachers say?**

K-5 Reading/Language Arts Consultant Martha Hershey:

*I used textmapping this year for the first time with a group of 2nd graders who "knew" about text features, but really didn't know! By using a scroll, color coding, etc., there was this incredible AHA moment for each of them. Suddenly, questions about the content came pouring out (after reading the bold headings), connections across the text were made. It was a powerful learning experience. It is definitely a strategy I will continue to use through the grades next year.*

A Community College Reading Instructor uses scrolls and textmapping with her students:

*I have used this technique with my adult ABE students. It really gives them an entirely different perspective on the material. Most students said that they were able to put text to pictures or graphs/maps much more easily. They also said that they were able to see the purpose of the chapter they were reading and understand its organization much more.*