

# Graphic organisers

## 3C – Design appropriate graphic organisers eg diagrams, images, overviews

A graphic organiser is a visual tool or diagram used to organise and represent information, concepts, or ideas in a structured and comprehensible manner.

Graphic organisers can support reading comprehension by helping pupils to focus on the key concepts and relationships between them in texts. They also help build pupils' mental representations and develop their ability to monitor their own comprehension.

There are different types of graphic organisers that can be used to support pupils' reading in different subjects. They can support comprehension *before*, *during* and *after* reading.

### Before reading

Graphic organisers before reading act as advance organisers, helping pupils preview material and familiarise themselves with content and layout. For example, a timeline in history could help pupils activate their prior knowledge and see how the events in the forthcoming text relate to the chronology of other events they already know about.

### During reading

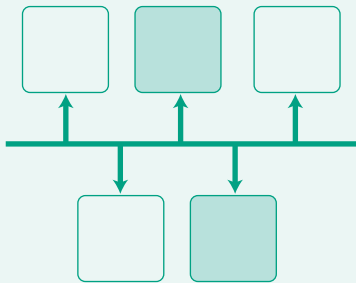
It can also be helpful to use graphic organisers to support pupils with their comprehension during reading. In a religious studies lesson, for instance, new ideas about a religion could be added to a graphic organiser to show their relationship to each other.

### After reading

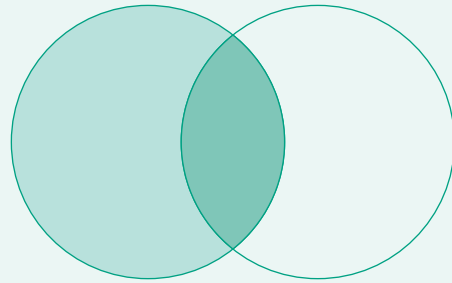
A graphic organiser can also be used to consolidate pupils' comprehension after they have read a text, such as for summarising the ideas or information that they have just read in an appropriate format. For example, pupils in geography might use a Venn diagram to consider the differences and similarities in physical and human geography.

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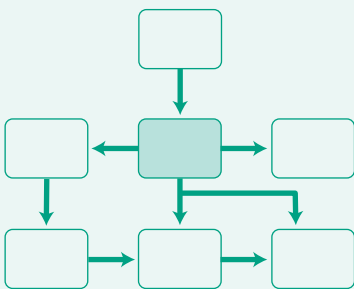
## Common types of graphic organiser:



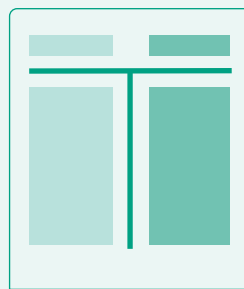
**Timeline:**  
represents specific events  
in chronological order.



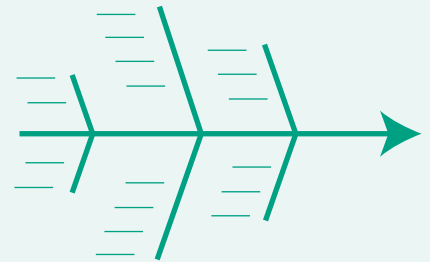
**Venn diagram:**  
illustrates relationships  
between groups.



**Concept map:**  
visualises relationships  
between ideas.



**T chart:**  
reveals similarities  
and differences.



**Fish bone diagram:**  
shows the different aspects  
or causes of an event.

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## Example 1: **Before reading** in English to visualise an unfamiliar situation

*The Prelude*

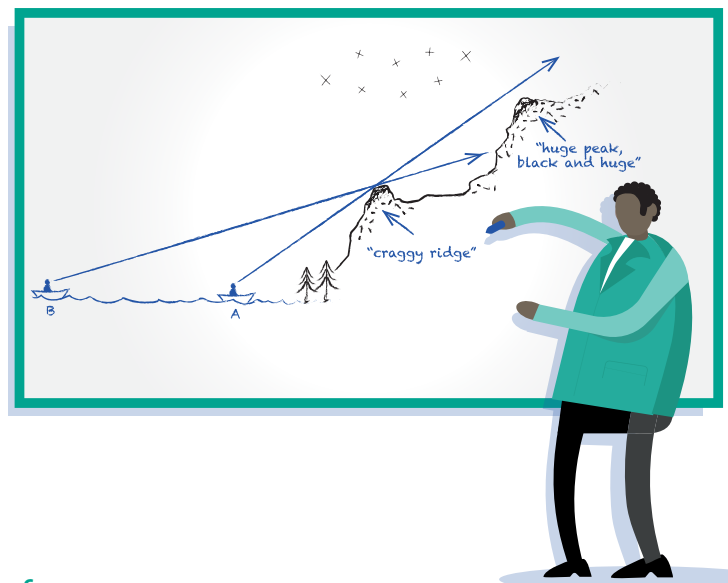
*One summer evening (led by her) I found  
A little boat tied to a willow tree*

....

*With an unswerving line, I fixed my view  
Upon the summit of a craggy ridge,  
The horizon's utmost boundary; far above  
Was nothing but the stars and the grey sky.*

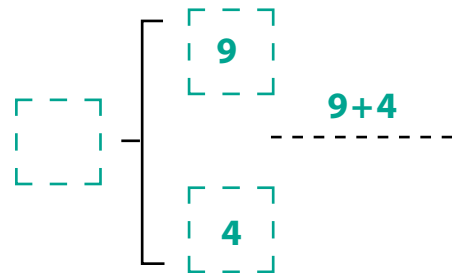
....

*from behind that craggy steep till then  
The horizon's bound, a huge peak, black and huge,  
As if with voluntary power instinct,  
Upreared its head.*



## Example 2: **During reading** in maths to focus attention on underlying mathematical process

Ann had 9 magazines.  
She buys 4 more magazines.  
How many magazines does she have now?



## Example 3: **After reading** in economics to summarise important stages of development

