

Major Storms & Community Resilience Concept Map of Major Storms

Name: _____

I. Background

A concept map is a diagram of nodes, each containing concept labels, which are linked together with directional lines, also labeled. The concept nodes are arranged in hierarchical levels that move from general to specific concepts. These maps help us visualize our knowledge of the relationships between different concepts in a particular field. In working on these concept maps, you will be developing **systems thinking**, a critical skill in addressing real-world problems. The point of this activity is to hone your ability to consider the big picture issues around storm risks and resilience.

II. Concept Map. You will work independently to build a concept map.

- 1) Write down 10 words that you associate with the terms “major storms: impacts and risks.” Then rank them from “most general and inclusive” (1) to “least general and inclusive” (10).

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- 2) On the back of this paper, write the “most general and inclusive” concept near the top of the paper; and draw a box around it.
- 3) Under the most general/inclusive concept, start adding the other nine words from your list, each with a box around them, in a hierarchy that makes sense to you.
- 4) Connect concept boxes, one pair at a time, with arrows indicating how they are linked. If it is a one way linkage (one affecting the other but not vice-versa), then use a one directional (→) arrow to show that linkage. If the two concepts interact in a two-way linkage, then use a double-sided arrow (↔).
- 5) Label the arrows with explanatory text (*e.g.*, storms → rain or snow (linking word is “create”) or snow drifts → road closures (linking words are “lead to”). Continue this process until all concepts appear on the map with lines linking the concept boxes.
- 6) You can have branching lines and arrows, as well as many levels of hierarchy. You can use boxes or ovals for the concepts, but they should contain only one or two words. Do not worry about neatness! You will be revising this map later, and can start over if you wish.