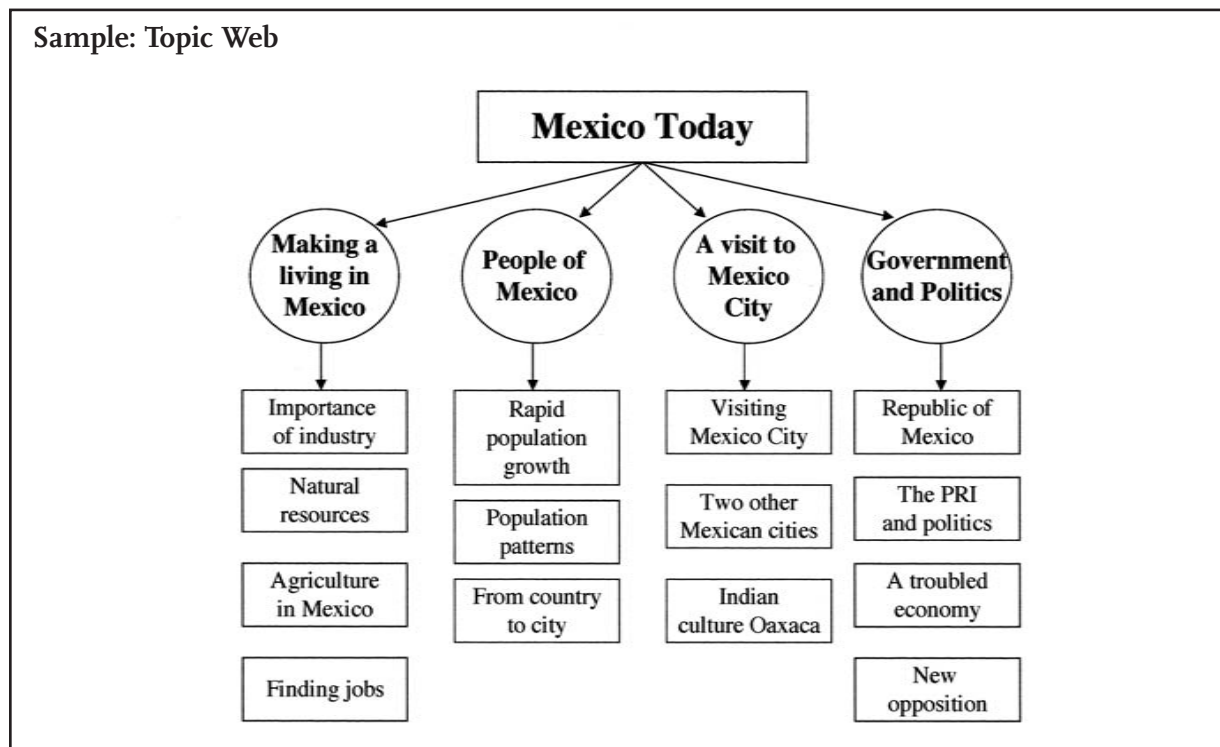




Classroom Examples


Here is an example of the kind of work your students will be able to do once you have taught them the Keys to Literacy Comprehension Strategy. Each step in the Strategy is designed to improve students' understanding of what they are reading by helping them identify the main idea, generate questions, take notes, and summarize. These skills are used before, during, and after reading.

One key main idea skill we teach is how to develop a topic web, or top down graphic organizer. The topic web below is based on a 5th grade textbook about Mexico. It was completed before reading and it represents the main ideas in the unit. The chapter heading is "Mexico Today," and the main sections and subsections are shown underneath on different levels and with different shapes.




Next, students turn the topic web into a series of questions. This helps them predict the topics that will be covered and gets them actively involved in reading. The questions below are based on the first two subheadings of the web.

Sample: Topics to Questions



Making a Living in Mexico

- What kind of industry is in Mexico?
- What natural resources can be found in Mexico?
- What role does agriculture play in Mexico?
- Is it easy or hard to find jobs in Mexico? Why?



People of Mexico

- How has the growth in people affected Mexico?
- Where to people live in Mexico?
- Why do people move from the country to the city?

These questions can be transferred into two column notes, where the broader topics are listed on the left and the supporting details are on the right. The two column notes below are partially completed to show how the teacher can model effective note taking. Two column notes are used during reading.

Sample: Big Picture Notes

Making a Living in Mexico	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The importance of industry 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mex. is 1 of most industrialized countries in Lat. Amer. 2. Manufacturing covers big area 3. Tourism is big business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Natural resources 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mineral wealth 2. Importance of oil 3. Oil reserves 4. Plenty of gas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Agriculture in Mexico 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Finding jobs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

The example below of two column notes focuses only on the Importance of Industry in Mexico.

Sample: Detailed Notes

• The importance of industry

<p>1. Mex. is 1 of most industrialized countries in Lat. Amer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Factories make many things: iron, steel, glass, chemicals, paper, cement, textiles, electrical equip, processed foods •Auto manufacturing is major industry •Manufacturing means making of goods on large scale, especially by machines
<p>2. Manufacturing covers big area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stretches from Veracruz on east coast •To Guadalajara near western side •Mexico City, Puebla, Cuernavaca, Toluca, & Leon are in manufacturing area
<p>3. Tourism is big business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •10% of GNP came from tourism •GNP is total value of nation's goods & services produced in 1 year •To attract tourists: weather & scenery, hotel/restaurant ads, tourist agencies, efficient transportation

Finally, the notes are summarized so students can review the main ideas and restate them in their own words. This is used after reading and to prepare for studying.

Sample: Section Summary

The Importance of Industry

Mexico is one of the most industrialized countries of Latin America. Mexico manufactures many things in it factories including automobiles. The factories can be found all over the country. Another major business in Mexico is tourism. Tourism is strong *because* of the good weather and scenery. In addition, Mexico promotes tourism.

These examples are taken from **The Key Three Routine: Comprehension Strategy Instruction** by Joan Sedita, copyright 2003 by Joan Sedita.