

## Why start with a Concept?

Structural Learning helps students create accessible conceptual frameworks that explain the main ideas and the presumed relationships among them. The Structural Learning shapes uses facts as the building bricks for conceptual understanding. These lenses require mental processing on both factual and conceptual levels, producing intellectual depth in thinking and understanding. As the learners talk, think and build we are allowing the brain to make connections and see patterns within the information. At the heart of this pedagogy lies collaboration, social learning and meaning making. Within each topic lies essential concepts that without a fully developed understanding, makes learning an up-hill struggle. The starting point is to identify what these essential concepts are, what is the 'need to know' material, the very foundations of the topic. The second step is to give learners the opportunity to construct these concepts and build meaning (literally).

### The Foundation for Knowledge Creation

These Key ways of organising information lay the foundation for knowledge creation and linguistic expression. Within every topic you will find opportunities to use the factual content and these thinking processes to build lasting comprehension.

#### Rank



Order by an agreed value.

The structures can be used to convey abstract ideas. For example, showing hierarchies in the information - which one is more important, expensive, significant etc.

#### Connect



Create causal links between items.

The bricks can be used to show complex causality within a phenomenon. For example, global warming causes ice caps to melt which causes sea levels to rise.

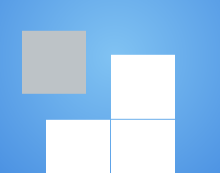
#### Compare



Identify similarities and differences.

The connections of the bricks can be used to represent similarities. Connecting bricks to each other could represent a sameness.

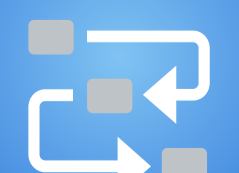
#### Arrange



Join together related items.

Ideas can quickly be mapped onto the bricks and connected up to show conceptual connections akin to a mind map.

#### Sequence



Order by time or logic.

Connecting the bricks up to represent a time-based connection is a good way of answering the question-what happened? This could be instructions, stories or historical events.



*'Systematically developing conceptual schema's in the brain to handle new information.'*

Lynn Erickson