

Synthesizing and Integrating Information about Ecology

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Synthesizing means combining parts into a new whole.

You use synthesis when you

- use what you already know to figure out the meaning of a new word
- combine several brainstorming suggestions to develop a solution to a problem
- develop a consensus of opinion based on everyone's ideas
- use information from several different sources in a project
- adapt an idea from one form to another (for example, you create a play based on a novel or a dance based on a poem)

In what other situations would you use synthesis?

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Essential Question: How Do We Protect Our Planet?

Definition: Synthesizing means combining parts into a new whole.

A maxim is a wise saying or short statement about a topic. You may be familiar with Benjamin Franklin’s rhyming maxim “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” Not all maxims rhyme, however. The following example, particularly appropriate for this book, was written by Henry David Thoreau: “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” Another maxim on ecology is by Al Bernstein: “We treat this world of ours as if we had a spare in the trunk.”

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In a sense, a maxim is a type of synthesis or summary statement on a topic. A maxim condenses a complex situation into a short statement full of wisdom and experience. What maxims can you develop about ecology and the environment now that you have read several clusters of stories and articles?

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Directions: **Organizer A** shows an example of a maxim based on “A Fable for Tomorrow” from the second cluster. Notice how the author of the maxim first located an interesting quotation from the selection and then summarized the quotation to create the saying. Other maxims could be created from the same quotation. Now review the selections you have read so far in this book. Select one that you think would yield a wise saying. Use **Organizer B** to record a situation or quotation from your selection and your ecology maxim.

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Organizer A Selection: A Fable for Tomorrow from *Silent Spring*

Quotation/Situation	Ecology Maxim
No witchcraft, no enemy action had silenced the rebirth of new life in this stricken world. The people had done it themselves.	We cannot blame ecological problems on others—we are our own worst enemies.

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Organizer B Selection: _____

Quotation/Situation	Ecology Maxim