



Kidspiration

First Steps Guide

Kidspiration is a visual organizer tool that helps students do the following, using both words and pictures:

- Brainstorm ideas
- Organize and categorize information
- Create stories and descriptions
- Explore new ideas with thought webs and diagrams

To open Kidspiration, go to Classroom Tools and double-click on the Kidspiration icon.



Kidspiration

Kidspiration will launch the Starter Screen:



Picture Button: click here to open the visual organizer.

Writing Button: click here to open the writing view to build a written project.

Open Button: click here to open an existing

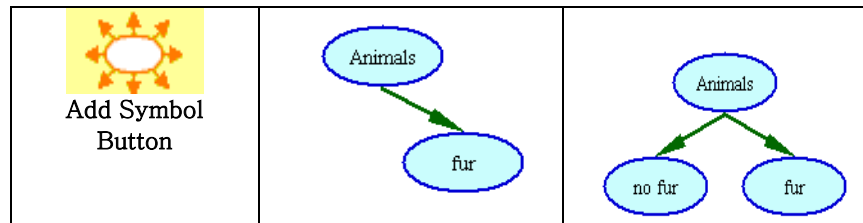
Create a Diagram in Picture View:

- To start a new graphic diagram click on the Picture Button.
- The First Idea circle pops on the screen and provides a starting point for your work.
 - You can change the text on the symbol by clicking on the symbol, and typing.
 - (Symbols can be either text bubbles or pictures).



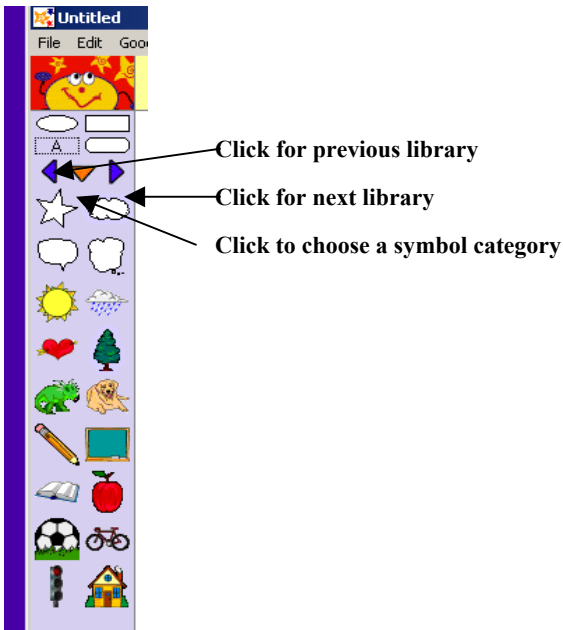
Adding New Symbols to the First Idea Circle:

- Click on the First Idea symbol (Animals) to select it.
- Click on the Add Symbol button once to connect one symbol and click on the Add Symbol button twice to connect two symbols.
- Remember to click on the symbol to type your text.

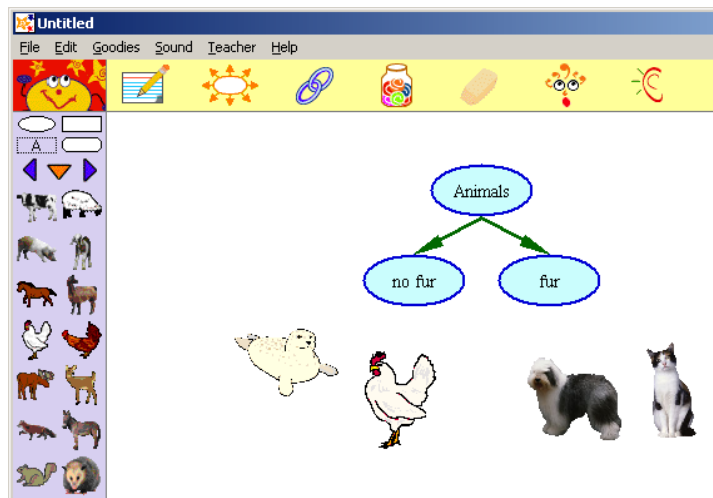


Using the Symbol Palette to Add Different Symbols

- The symbol palette has hundreds of text bubbles and pictures to choose from.



- To add the symbols to your diagram, click once on the symbol or click and drag the symbol on to your workspace.
 - Hint: Before adding new symbols, click off of the symbol to de-select it in order to prevent overwriting that symbol.

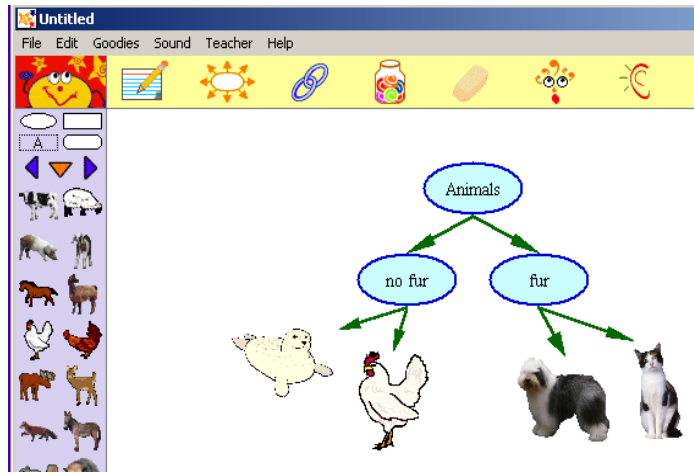


Connecting the Symbols

- The link feature will allow you to connect the symbols to the pictures.
 - First click on the food symbol to select it.
 - Next click on the **Link Symbols** button.
 - Next click on the fern picture to create a link to it.

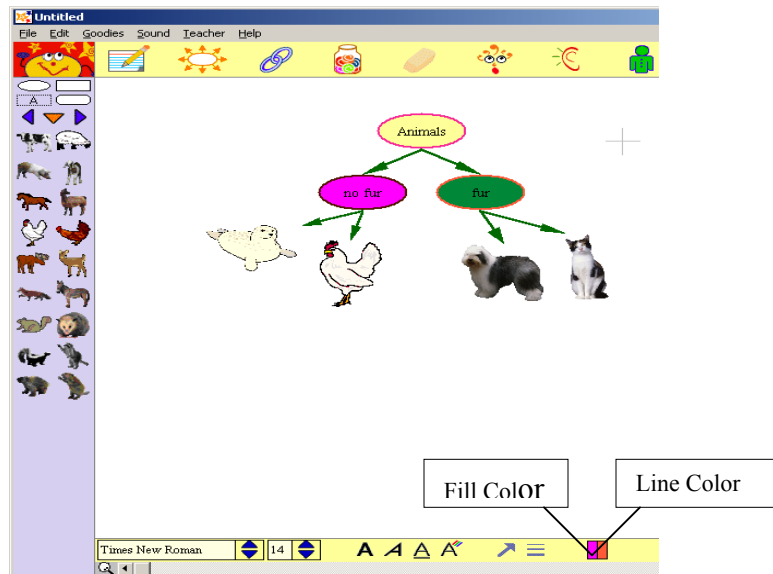


- Click the **Link Symbols** button again to turn it off.
- Follow these steps to connect the other symbols.



Changing Colors

- You can change the fill and line colors of any symbol.
- Click on the symbol that you would like to change.
- Click on the **fill color** or **line color** button on the formatting toolbar, located at the bottom of the screen.
- Click on the color that you want to change to.



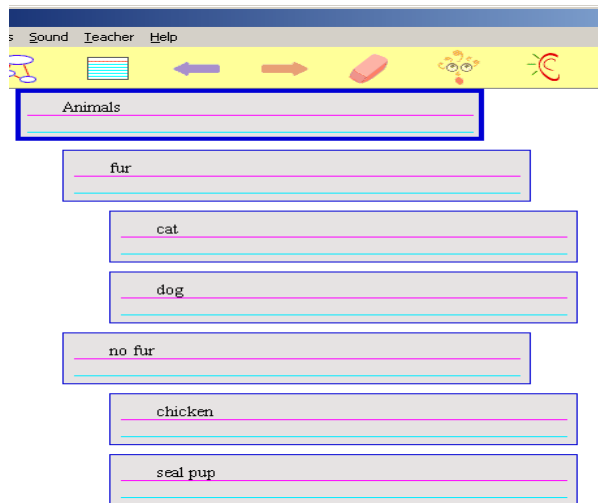
- You can also change the background color by selecting Goodies and then Background.

Create a Diagram in Writing View:

- Use writing view to begin building a written project using the ideas in your graphic diagram.
- To start a written diagram of your graphic design, click on the Writing button.



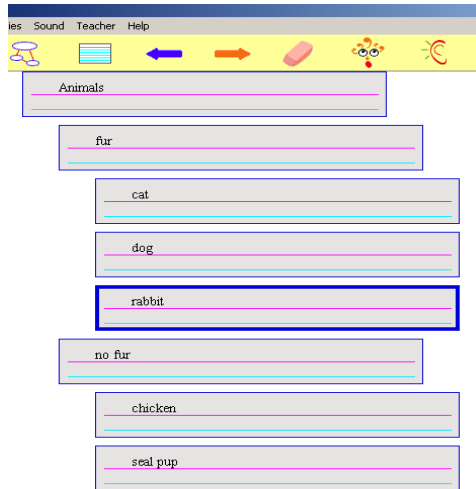
- In writing view the ideas in your diagram are organized from top to bottom, with your first idea at the top.



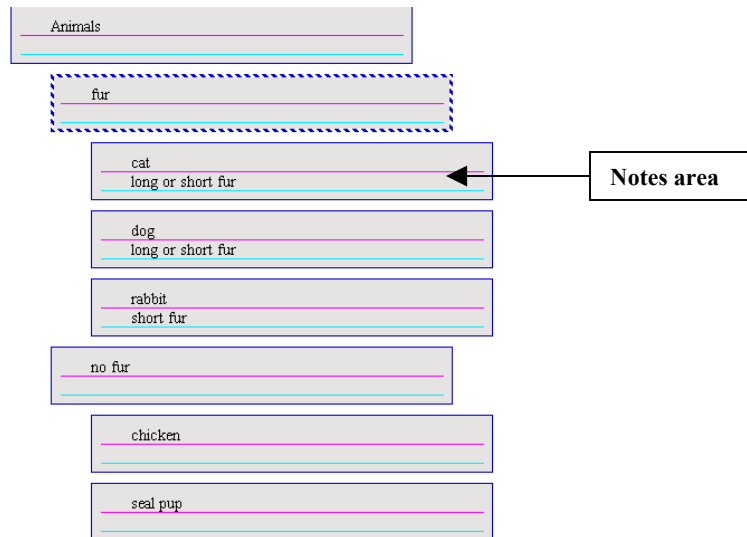
Add and Modify a New Idea:

- You can add a new idea to your project by clicking on an idea, such as fur.
- Next, click on the New Idea button. A new box will appear in your diagram for you to type your new idea in.





- To move your ideas, drag and drop the boxes.
- To add information to your ideas, click in the notes area of the box and begin typing.



- You can toggle between picture view and writing view by clicking on the picture view icon or the writing view icon.
- When you are finished, you can save your project, print your project, or export your project in a picture format. All of these options are located under the File menu.