Thinking Trees

WHAT? A graphic organizer for use with group research projects

- ☐ Primary school
- ☐ Elementary school
- ☑ Middle school
- ☑ High school
- ☑ Reading and language arts
- ☑ Social studies
- ☑ Science
- ☐ Math

Strategies for Independent Word Learners Supported by This Tool . . .

- ☐ 1. Recognizing the need to know
- ☑ 2. Connecting to background knowledge
- ☑ 3. Using context
- ☐ 4. Using word structure
- ☑ 5. Using references
- ☑ 6. Using word relationships
- ☐ 7. Using word origins
- ☐ 8. Using visualization and personalization
- ☑ 9. Expanding word knowledge
- ☐ 10. Using word play

WHY? To help students navigate research and provide a structure for them to organize important thoughts, concepts, and vocabulary terms

WHEN? Use the Thinking Tree tool with students working in groups, particularly when working with nonfiction or research projects.

HOW?

- Begin with the concept being discussed.
- Have students suggest subcategories that they know (to connect to prior knowledge).
- Choose one of the subcategories to conduct further research.
- Have students work in groups, filling in additional information.
- Continue to add details pertaining to each topic.

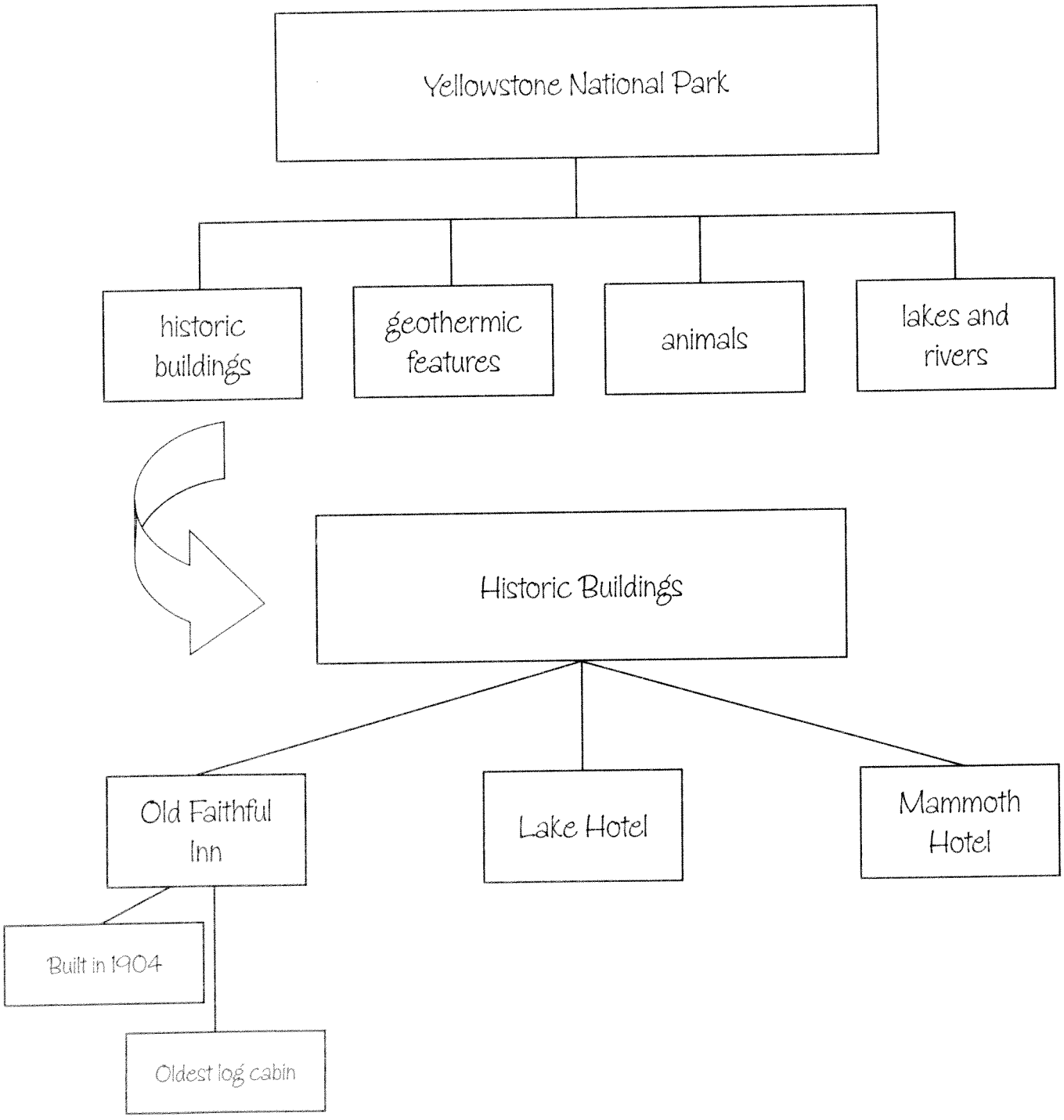
TIPS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Have students work in groups.
- Choose a broad topic to begin with that students have some prior knowledge of.
- Make connections to other areas in the curriculum.

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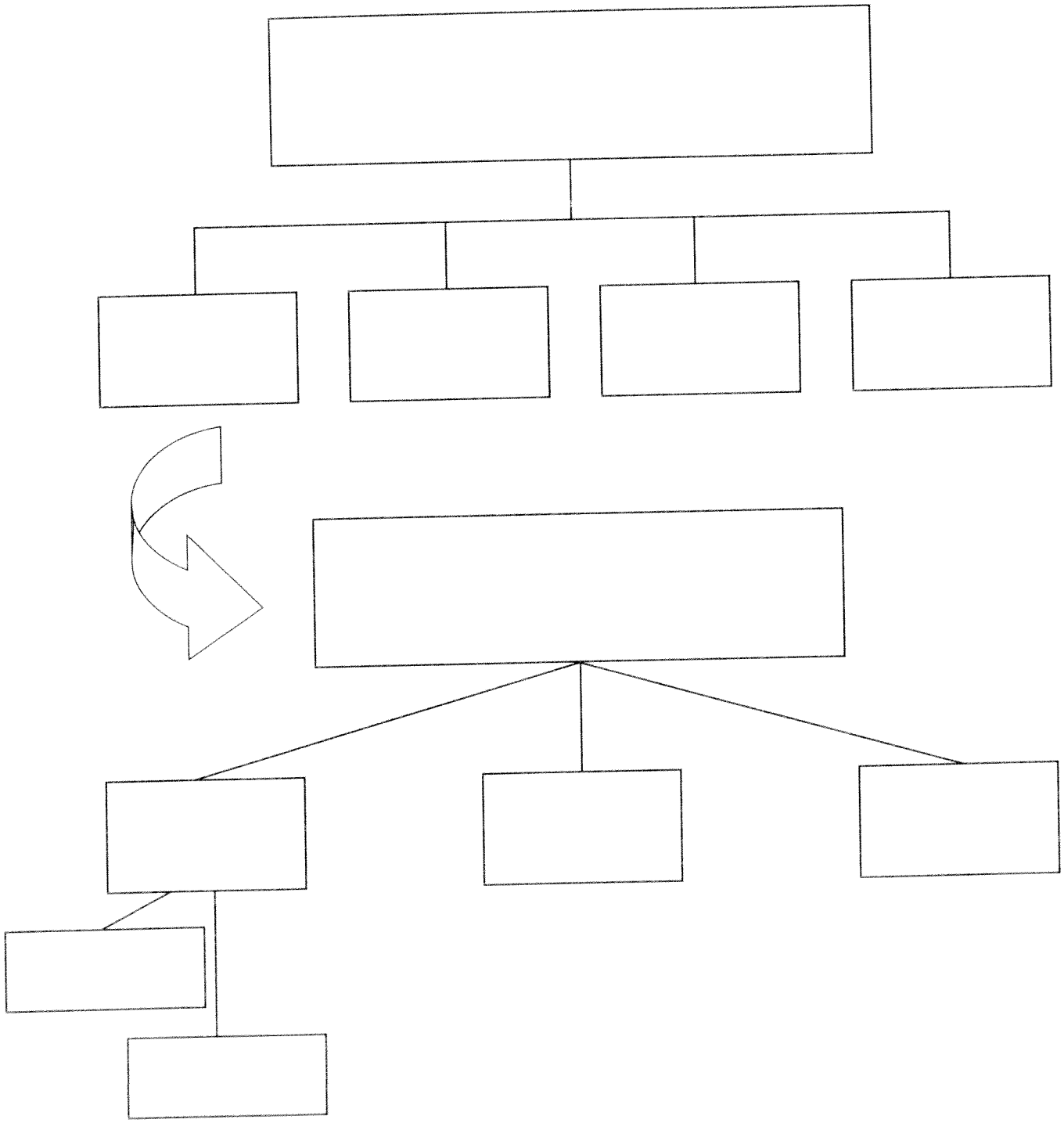


Source: Adapted with permission from a classroom example provided by Melissa Warr, Washington Elementary School, Waukegan, IL.

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