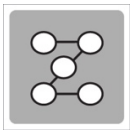
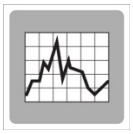
Depth and Complexity Icons

The icons are tools to challenge learners to venture deeper and to broaden their understanding of the areas of study. Use Depth & Complexity dimensions to elaborate any topic or unit.

Dimension	Icon	Definition	Curricular Example
Language of the Discipline		What is the specific vocabulary terminology for the content or discipline?	Identify the author's use and purpose of figurative language.
Details		What are the features, attributes, factors, or characteristics?	Compare and contrast the details of the plant and animal cells.
Patterns		What elements repeat? What is the sequence or order of events? What predictions can be made based on past events?	Discuss the patterns that exist in different genres.
Rules		What are the rules, structures, relationships, organizational elements?	Use the properties and rules in solving equations.
Trends		How do political, social, economic, or religious factors affect/create a pattern?	Investigate the trends in use of natural resources.
Unanswered Questions		What is still uncertain? What is unexplained?	Infer the possible daily activities of an Egyptian trader.
Ethics		What moral values are involved? What biases exist?	Discuss the biases/prejudice present in a particular event.
Big Idea		What theory or general statement applies? What generalizations can be made? What is the main idea?	Examine the characters, setting, and conflict to determine the theme of the story.
Over Time		What can be learned by looking at past, present, and future? What change is noted?	Examine how the character learns a lesson. Discuss how the actions of the past influence the beliefs/laws of today.
Multiple Perspectives		How does point of view affect perception of reality? What are the opposing views?	Examine the multiple perspectives of the encounter of Christopher Columbus and the Tainos.
Across Disciplines		How do areas of study relate to other subjects within, between, and across disciplines?	Examine the Gold Rush across disciplines from multiple perspectives, such as an economist, an environmentalist, a sociologist, and a political scientist.

Adapted from *Differentiation Smart Reference* Guide, Tredick & J Taylor Education, 2009