Combining Keywords Worksheet

This worksheet illustrates combining keywords using the standard search terms: **AND, OR, NOT**. Each circle represents the full set of results (articles, books, etc.) that will be found using the indicated keyword. Consult a librarian if you need assistance.

Sample Topic: Discuss aboriginal self-government in Canada.
Sample keywords connected with **AND**: Canada, aboriginal, self-government

To expand your search consider potential synonyms for “aboriginal”.
Sample synonyms for the keyword “aboriginal”: Native peoples, indian.

To narrow this topic, consider only areas outside of British Columbia.
**Test your knowledge:** Generate relevant keywords and place them in the appropriate search boxes using standard search terms: **AND, OR, NOT.** You may not require all the search boxes. Suggested solutions are on the next page.

**Topic:** Trace the rise of British urbanization against the backdrop of industrialization.

Relevant Keywords: _______________________________________________________

**Topic:** Identify major non-environmental obstacles to the development of the Alberta bitumen sands.

Relevant Keywords: _______________________________________________________

**Your own topic or question:** _____________________________________________
Suggested Solutions

Topic: Trace the rise of British urbanization against the backdrop of industrialization.
Relevant Keywords: Britain, United Kingdom, urbanization, industrialization

Topic: Identify major non-environmental obstacles to the development of the Alberta bitumen sands.
Relevant Keywords: Tar sands, oil sands, bitumen, Alberta, Canada, environment

Search results where the keywords (Britain or United Kingdom), urbanization and industrialization appear.

Search results where the keywords (tar sands or oil sands or bitumen) and (Alberta or Canada) appear, but not environment.