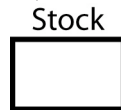
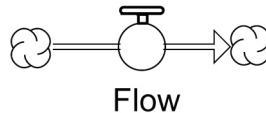


## Module 4 – Stocks and Flows - Definitions

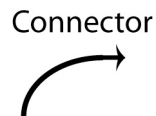
**Stock:** A stock represents an accumulation, concrete or abstract, that increases or decreases over time; the “noun(s)” in the system.



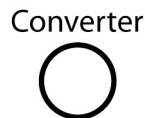
**Flow:** A flow represents actions or processes; transports “stuff,” concrete or abstract, that directly adds to or takes away from the accumulation in a stock; can be either an inflow or an outflow; the “verb(s)” in the system.



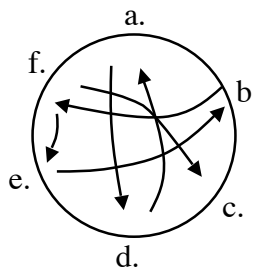
**Connector:** A connector indicates that changes in one element cause changes in another element; only changes a stock by going through an accompanying flow.



**Converter:** A converter holds information or relationships that affect the rate of the flows, or that affect the content of another converter.



**Interdependencies:** Components of a system affect each other; the dynamics of the system are determined by the effects of the interdependencies, rather than by the components of the system themselves



**System:** A system is a collection of elements that interact with each other over time to function as a whole.

**Systems Thinking:** “Systems Thinking is a vantage point from which you see a whole, a web of relationships, rather than focusing only on the detail of any particular piece. Events are seen in the larger context of a pattern that is unfolding over time.” High Performance Systems (Currently isee systems, Inc.)