You'll notice a new word in the *Heart of Wisdom Unit Studies* mind mapping\(^1\). Several activities ask the student to make a mind map. We encourage you to have your student alternate using this technique with regular note taking. A mind map, cluster, or web is a way of sorting through a variety of related thoughts, and getting them down on paper quickly. When you make a free flowing mind map you can actually see the thought process your mind is going through.

Mind mapping consists of a central word or concept. Around this central word you draw 5 to 10 main ideas that pertain to that word. You then take each of those words and again draw 5 to 10 main ideas that relate to each of these words. In this way a number of related ideas can be produced very quickly and easily.

As a means of note taking, mind maps have several advantages over other note taking processes:

- You can expand on an idea.
- You can re-organize ideas.
- You can see and make connections between thoughts and ideas.
- You can remember the material because you will be using your visual memory.
- You can take notes and be as brief as possible.
- You can place a great deal of information on one page.
- You can be inspired by your own thoughts.
- You can work logically with ideas without editing.

\(^1\) For details on learning and teaching mind mapping see: *Mapping Inner Space* by Nancy Margulies; *Using Both Sides of Your brain* by Tony Buzan or *Mind Mapping* by Joyce Wycoff.
Note Taking

Have your student try it the next time they read a book. Write down the central word then begin reading. Each time they read some idea that strikes them as important have them add it onto the mind map in the appropriate place. When they have finished reading the book, they will have a one page mind map which summarizes everything of interest in that book, and probably also have added several other things which they thought of during the reading. Creating the map will enhance their comprehension and retention.
Creative Writing

Mind mapping is a wonderful technique for creative writing or report writing, where it is very important to get down all your ideas first. Then you simply use the mind map and write a sentence or paragraph on each “key word.” Try it yourself before teaching it to your student. Write down the main idea and start branch- ing. Some ideas might seem trivial but write anyway, they might take you in a new direction and you can always cross them out later if they aren’t relevant. Keep branching and writing ideas until you feel the urge to write. You won’t have writer’s block for long using this approach. The normal process for a writing pro- ject is an outline. You write Roman numeral one and follow it with Roman numeral two—our brains don’t work that way. We have many thoughts and ideas occurring at the same time. A mind map lets you rapidly generate an enormous number of impressions, and at the same time organize them by grouping each thought next to what it is related to.

Here is an example of mind mapping instead of note taking, to organize information for a report.
Experiment

We did an experiment with this approach. I had everyone in my family make a mini-map (a mini-map only goes one level deep, i.e. it only has words which are directly related to the main thought) using the word “shoe” as the central idea. It was amazing how different each of us thought about the same topic. My husband wrote words like: leather, cloth, polish, factory, sole, and buckle. My teen age son wrote hightops, lowtops, sports, smelly, socks, shoe store, boots, and running. My adult daughter wrote fashion, high heels, flats, sandals, hose, and color. Then we brainstormed together to come up with new (sometimes silly) ideas: Cinderella, shoe maker, Little woman who lived in the shoe, wooden Dutch shoes, Maxwell Smart’s phone. You can see how different ideas can develop. Try it yourself with your family using the word “light.” You’ll be surprised at the areas it may lead.
Computer Mind Mapping

Computer mind maps offer several advantages over the original paper mind map. These advantages make mind mapping even more popular. It is easy to reconstruct. You can easily restructure your mind map, moving words and branches of words around in seconds. You can make words bold, big or different colors easily with a computer. There is software available exclusively for mind mapping. I made the illustration using Corel Draw®. The other mind maps in this chapter were made with a flow chart program. Most word processors have the ability to make circles and connecting lines. But, don’t let not having a computer stop you from trying mind mapping. One of the best mind maps I’ve seen was done in crayon.

Right Brain Left Brain

Our left brain is more active when we solve math problems, verbal skills, and move sequentially from one idea to another. Our right brain is more active when we are creative, drawing, or daydreaming. Mind mapping challenges us to use whole brain processing because we use words and images.
Mindmapping Samples

Made by eMindMaps: Trial free mind-mapping software: Intuitive, non-linear and "brain friendly." It is based on extensive research on how we learn and communicate. Provides a good range of images and colors. Hyperlinks to other documents can be inserted in the appropriate branches, and maps can be shared in real time over the Internet.

Continue to see more samples
7 Steps to Better Notes

1. Principles
   - Use loose leaf binder
   - One side of page
   - Positive attitude
   - Takes time to learn
   - Each individual different
   - Write small
   - Top of page
   - Project

2. Skills and Techniques
   - Use abbreviations
   - Replace words w/ letters
   - Use symbols
   - Leave out vowels
   - Systematize common words

3. Format
   - Traditional
     - Cornell method
   - Cornell 5 - Rs

4. Visuals
   - Time lines
   - Concept trees
   - Memory triggers
   - Mnemonics

5. Mind Maps
   - Blank page
   - Use keywords
   - Main concept in center
   - Lines radiate out w/ support

6. How and When to Review
   - Actively
   - Reciting
   - Reducing
   - Reflecting
   - Reviewing
   - Within 24 hours
   - Practice it every day

7. Summary
   - Find the way of note taking which is best for you and fits to your needs in each class, every day.

Learn faster with less effort!

Made by eMindMaps: Trial free mind-mapping software: Intuitive, non-linear and "brain friendly." It is based on extensive research on how we learn and communicate. Provides a good range of images and colors. Hyperlinks to other documents can be inserted in the appropriate branches, and maps can be shared in real time over the Internet.

Back to Mind Mapping
Mindmapping Samples

Made by eMindMaps: Trial free mind-mapping software: Intuitive, non-linear and "brain friendly." It is based on extensive research on how we learn and communicate. Provides a good range of images and colors. Hyperlinks to other documents can be inserted in the appropriate branches, and maps can be shared in real time over the Internet.

Back to Mind Mapping
Mindmapping Samples

Mind Mapping

Made by eMindMaps: Trial free mind-mapping software: Intuitive, non-linear and "brain friendly." It is based on extensive research on how we learn and communicate. Provides a good range of images and colors. Hyperlinks to other documents can be inserted in the appropriate branches, and maps can be shared in real time over the Internet.

HeartofWisdom.com
Heart of Wisdom Publications

Click on books to read excerpts online!

Creation: An Internet Linked Unit Study

“This is more than a study of Creation --This is a study of Christianity versus humanism.” This new unit study is a multi-level (grades 4-12) Bible focused, study utilizing the Charlotte Mason approach (living books, narration, etc.), lifestyle of learning methods, and the Internet! All Biblical doctrines of theology, directly or indirectly, ultimately have their basis in the book of Genesis. Therefore, a believing understanding of the book of Genesis is a prerequisite to an understanding of God and His meaning to man. Price includes password Internet access to updates, and links to hundreds of sites that correlate with the study. See Sample Lessons at HomeschoolUnitStudies.com

A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays

This giant, 585-page telephone-size book gives an extensive look at the nine annual holidays: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles, Hanukkah, Purim and the weekly holiday—the Sabbath! This book explains the historical, agricultural, spiritual, and prophetic purposes of each holiday, showing how each points to Christ and creative ways to teach them to your children! Includes projects, crafts, recipes, games, and songs for celebrating each holiday. Also includes instructions for a weekly Bible study and instructions using the Special Home School Section to incorporate the teaching of the biblical holidays with the academic school subjects! Excellent, fascinating information about the true New Testament Church and our Hebrew roots also included! ISBN 0-9701816-0-4. Read Excerpts at BiblicalHolidays.com

What Your Child Needs to Know When

Revised 2001. This is long-time homeschool best seller. Concerned homeschooling parents are always asking, “Am I doing enough?” This book is the answer. It includes the checklist for academic evaluation for grades K-8 and explains why children need to obtain not just academic knowledge but, more important, the Godly wisdom to know how to use the knowledge! Includes chapters on true Biblical education methods (compared to classical Greek) and the Heart of Wisdom teaching approach! ISBN 0-9701816-1-2. 312 p. Read Excerpts at HeartofWisdom.com

The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach: A Guide to Biblical Education

This book provides you with the methods, program, and resources for a 12-year course of study where students spend half the school day studying God’s Word and the other half studying God’s world (academics). Students study history chronologically and science in the order of the days of creation. This book will instruct you, step by step, how to give your child an Bible focused, comprehensive education from preschool through high school; one that will train him or her to read, to study, to understand, to love to learn and most importantly to desire and seek true wisdom. The Heart of Wisdom teaching approach is a beautiful, exciting blending of Bible first philosophy, the Charlotte Mason approach, Hebraic education, Delight Directed learning, 4 Step Lessons, and more. Read Excerpts at HomeSchoolUnitStudies.com

Heart of Wisdom Publishing ✤ Order: 1-800-266-5564 ✤ E-mail Info@HeartofWisdom.com