

Mind Mapping

You'll notice a new word in the *Heart of Wisdom Unit Studies* mind mapping¹. 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.

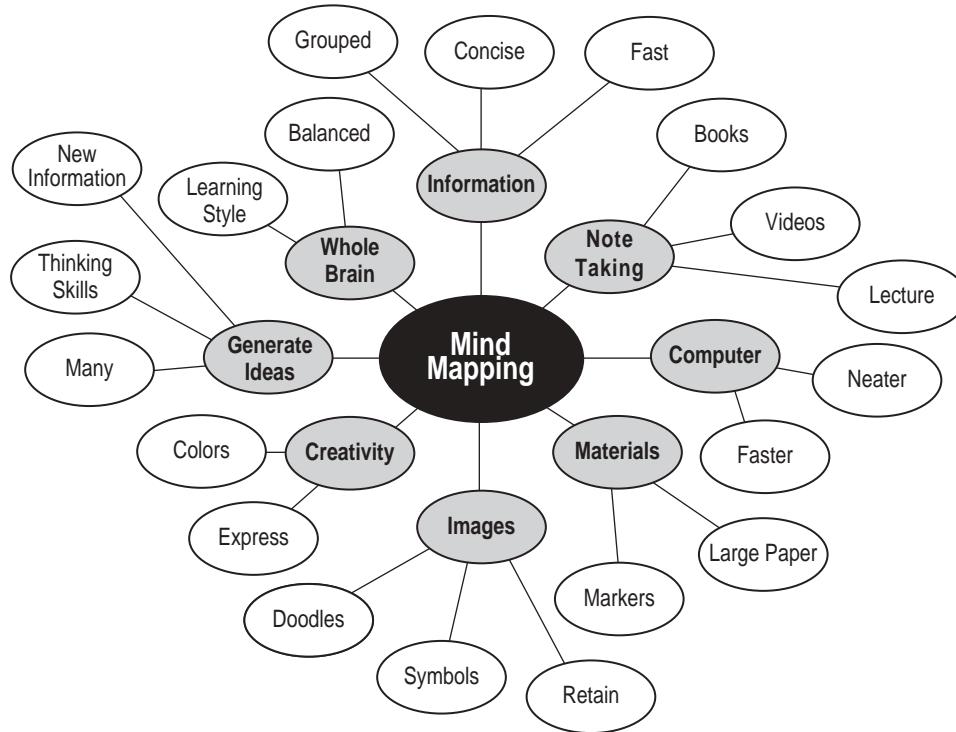
Mind mapping consists of a central word or concept. Around this central word you draw 5 to 10 main ideas that pertain to that word. You then take each of those words and again draw 5 to 10 main ideas that relate to each of these words. In this way a number of related ideas can be produced very quickly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

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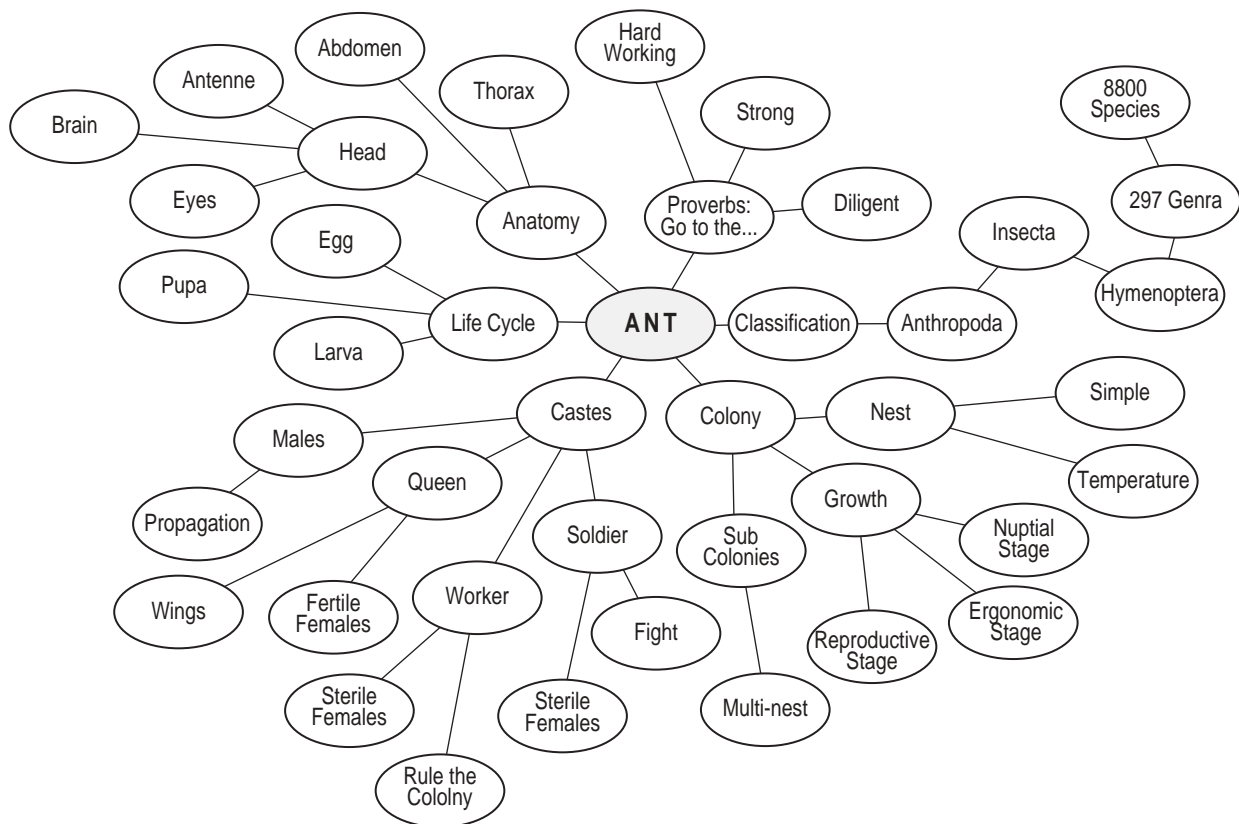


Note Taking

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

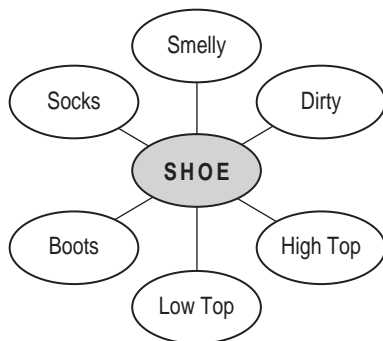
Mind mapping is a wonderful technique for creative writing or report writing, where it is very important to get down all your ideas first. Then you simply use the mind map and write a sentence or paragraph on each “key word.” Try it yourself before teaching it to your student. Write down the main idea and start branching. 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 project 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.

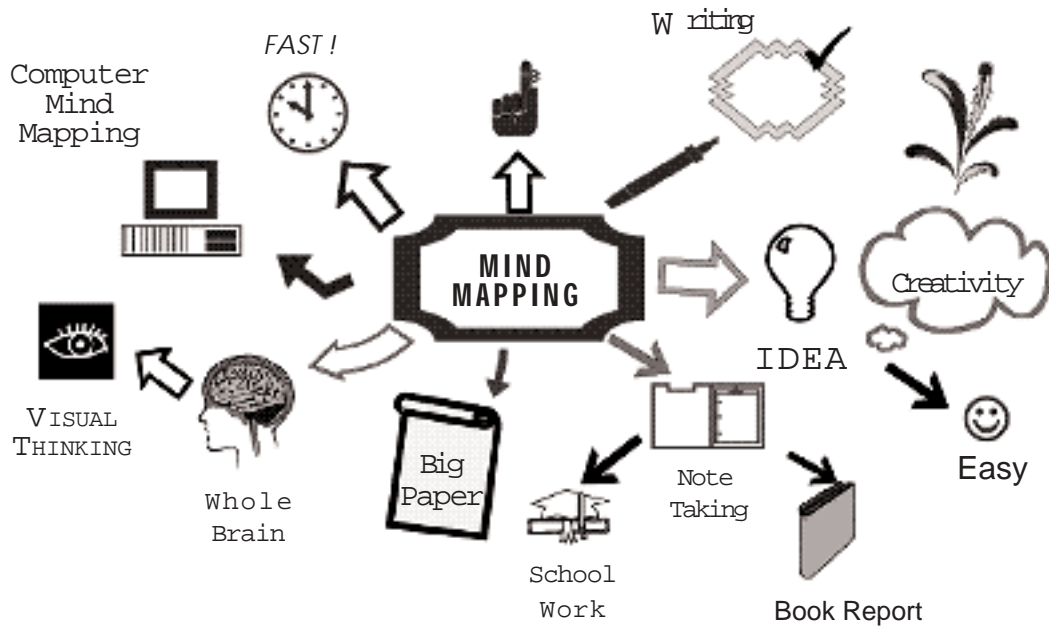


Here is an example of mind mapping instead of note taking, to organize information for a report.

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.



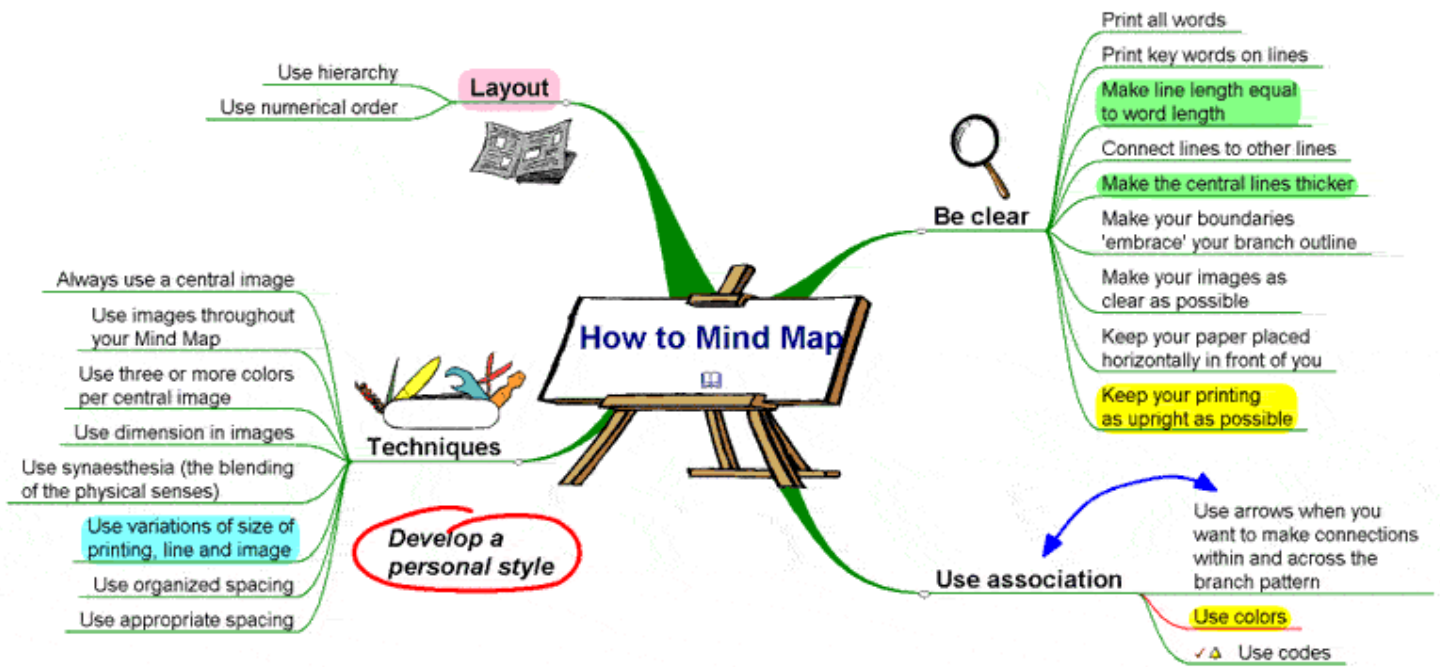


Computer Mind Mapping

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

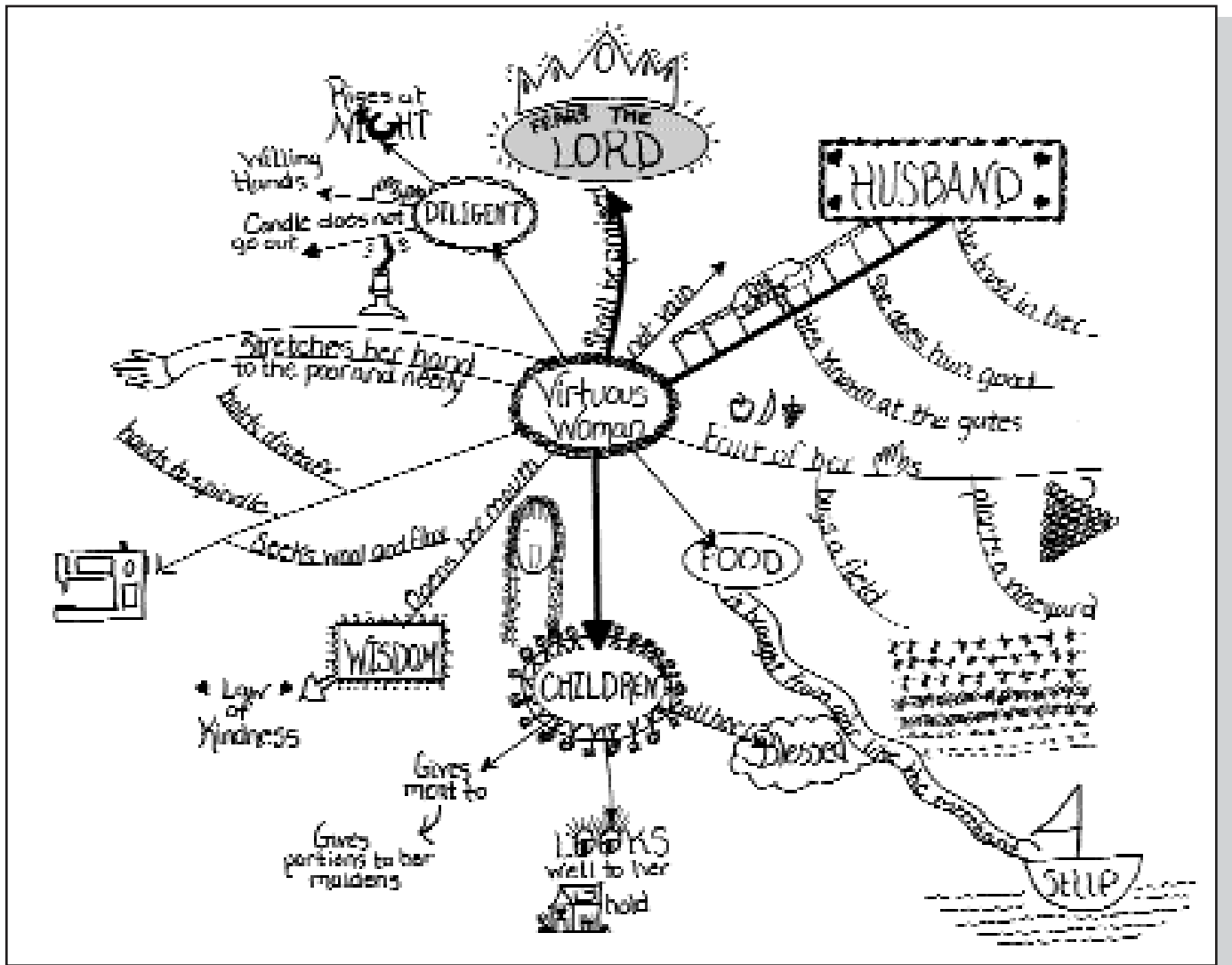
Our left brain is more active when we solve math problems, verbal skills, and move sequentially from one idea to another. Our right brain is more active when we are creative, drawing, or daydreaming. Mind mapping challenges us to use whole brain processing because we use words and images.



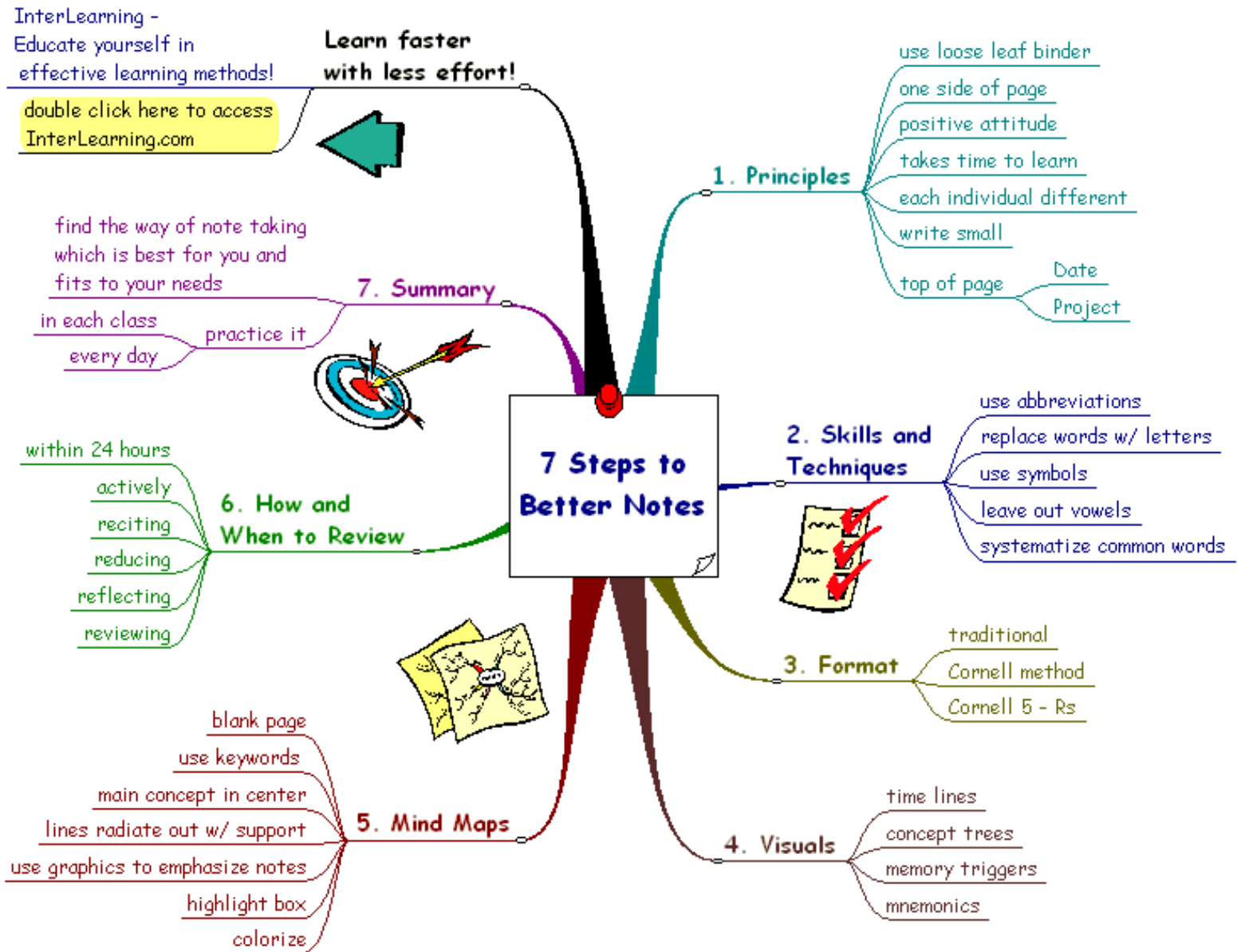
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by [eMindMaps](#): Trial free mind-mapping software: Intuitive, non-linear and "brain friendly." It is based on extensive research on how we learn and communicate. Provides a good range of images and colors. Hyperlinks to other documents can be inserted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

Continue to see more samples

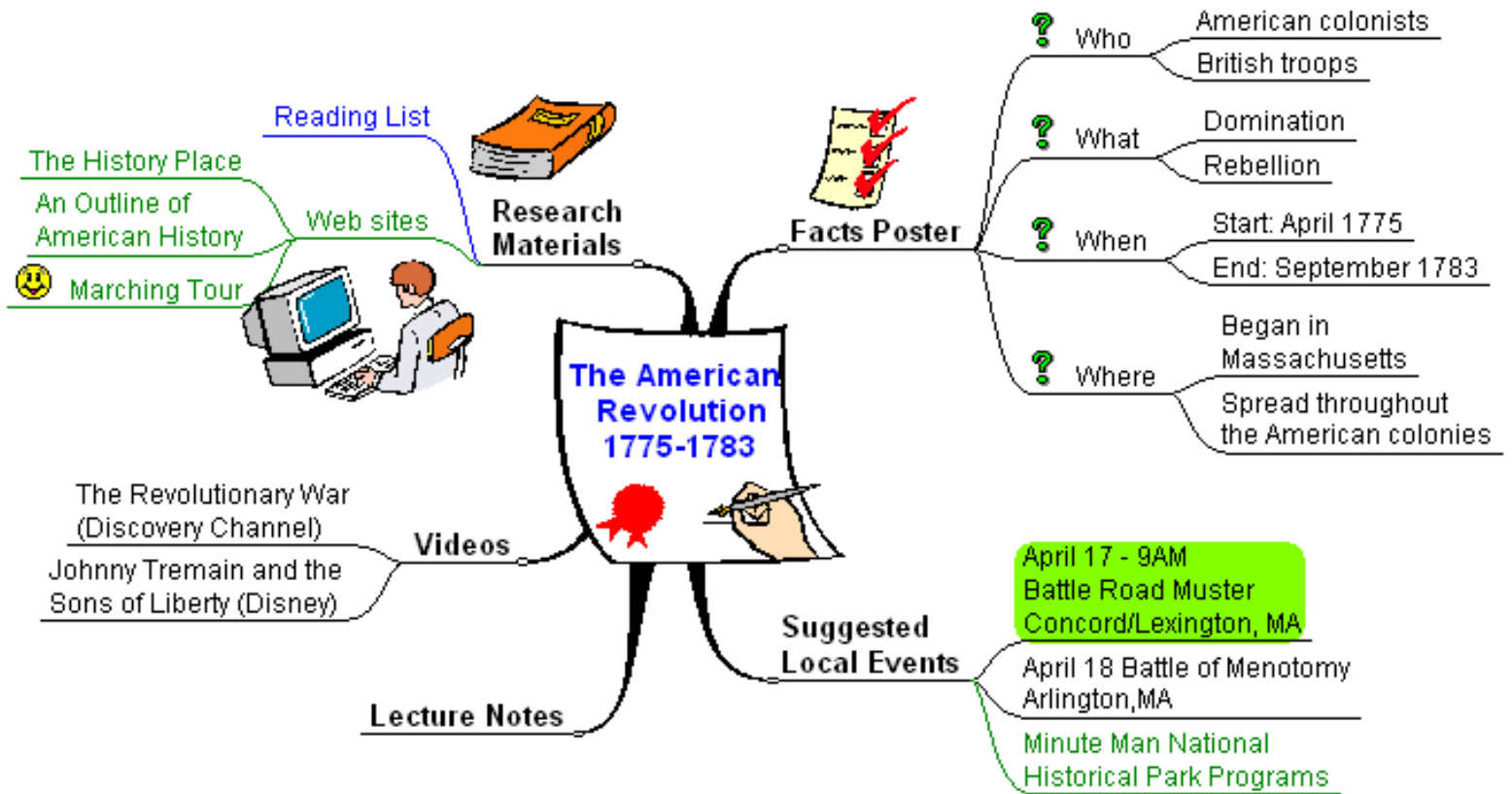


Proverbs 31:10-31 Mind Map



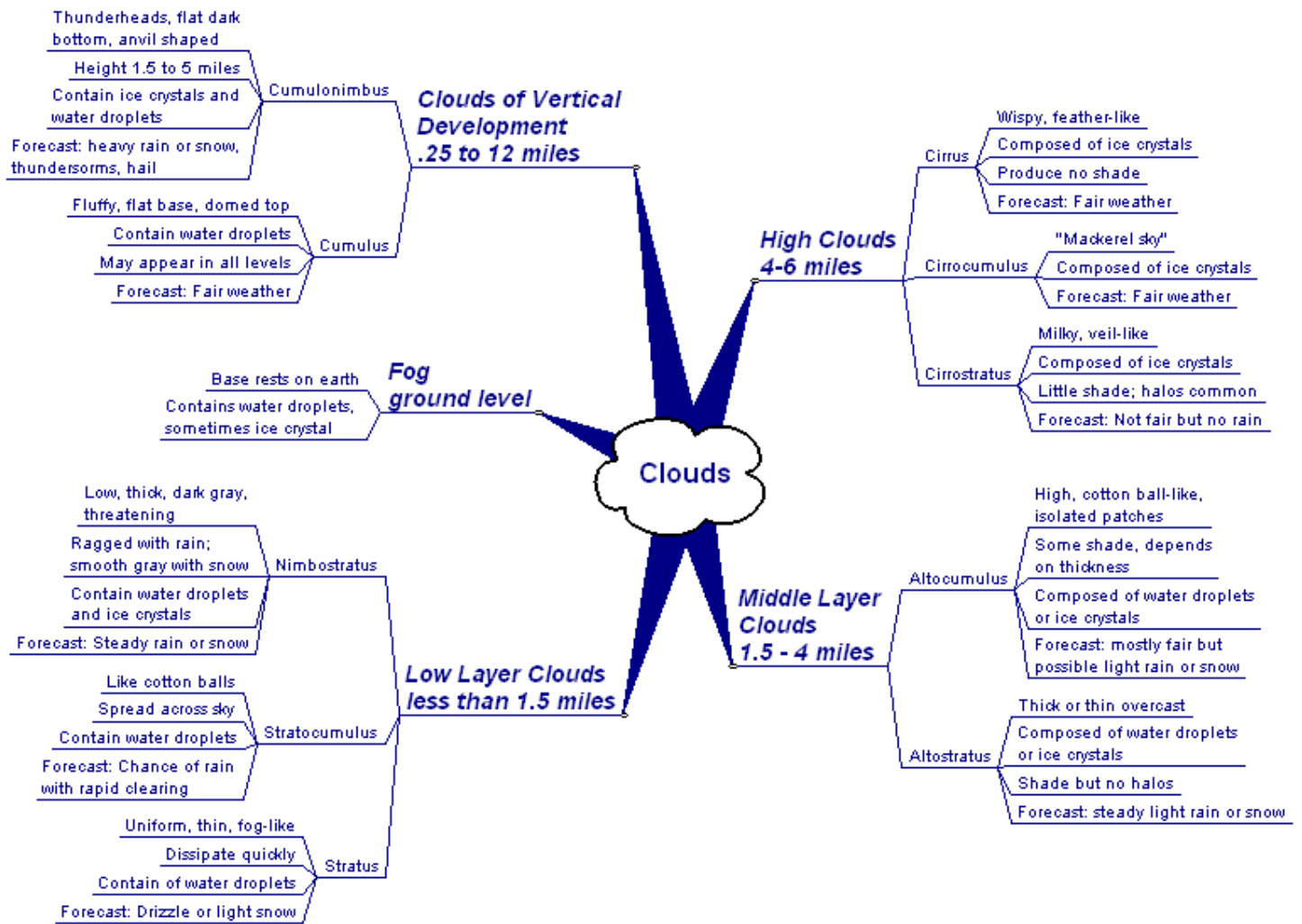
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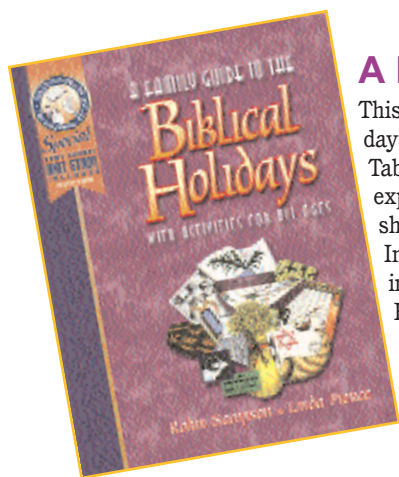
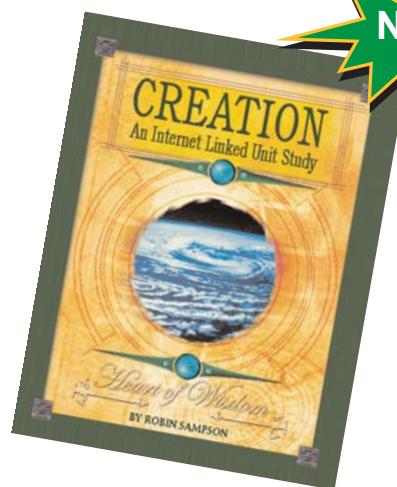
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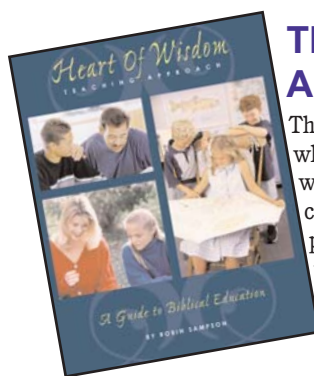
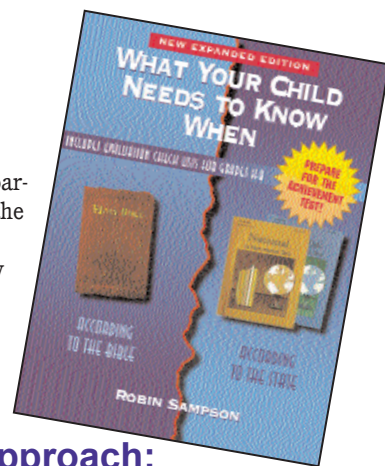


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