

Mind Maps

Mind Maps are a fantastic visual resource that teaches children to organise vocabulary. They are a cross-curricular resource and can be built up over a series of lessons.

Steps to creating a Mind Map:

- 1) Choose a topic
- 2) Ask the child(ren) to give you lots of words to do with the chosen topic
- 3) Look at the list of words with the child(ren) and consider whether any words can be grouped. Complete this by using colours. Underline words that are going to be in the same group with the same colour. These will form the main branches of the Mind Map
- 4) Complete the Mind Map landscape. Place the chosen topic in the middle and draw the main branches (group names). Each main branch and sub-branches should be different colours.
- 5) Write the words around the relevant main branches.
- 6) Add multi-coloured pictures to the Mind Map
- 7) If more words are given when the Mind Map is complete ask the child which group the word could belong to or whether a new group is needed. Add the word accordingly.
- 8) Keep the Mind Map visible to the child(ren) to support their learning.

Example:

The image shows a handwritten mind map for the topic 'tributary'. The words are organized into two columns and underlined with different colors. A legend on the right explains the color coding:

- Green - Nature
- Blue - River parts
- Yellow - Descriptive words
- Pink - activities
- Orange - Famous

Column 1 (Left):

- trees (Green)
- bed (Blue)
- wide (Yellow)
- Ribble (Orange)
- boat (Pink)
- bank (Blue)
- rat (Green)
- run (Yellow)
- swim (Pink)
- Amazon (Orange)
- fish (Green)

Column 2 (Right):

- tributary (Blue)
- long (Yellow)
- fishing (Pink)
- duck (Green)
- mouth (Blue)
- swan (Green)
- blue (Yellow)
- Thames (Orange)
- Nile (Orange)

