

## WHAT IS IT?

Mind mapping is a visual exercise to help students organise and structure complex content. It focuses on developing a hierarchy of information to work out key components, their subsets and relationships to each other. Focus on one central word or idea and use branches to depict the importance of ideas.

Mind maps can be used for individual or group activities or a mixture of both to help with brainstorming, problem solving and memory.

## WHY USE IT?

Mind mapping can help students to:

- identify and prioritise content,
- identify gaps in understanding, and
- unlock creative ideas or generate new ones.

## HOW DO I DO IT?

1. Pose a challenging concept or idea that you want students to think about and explain to students the key principles of mindmapping:
  - Start with the proposed concept or idea in the centre
  - Write down any and all thoughts separately as key words (try to avoid long sentences)
  - Lines should be thinner, the further away it is from the central concept
  - Use different colours for themes or groups
2. Ask students to post or display their mind maps for in-class discussion and feedback. Use this opportunity to clear up any misconceptions and field questions.

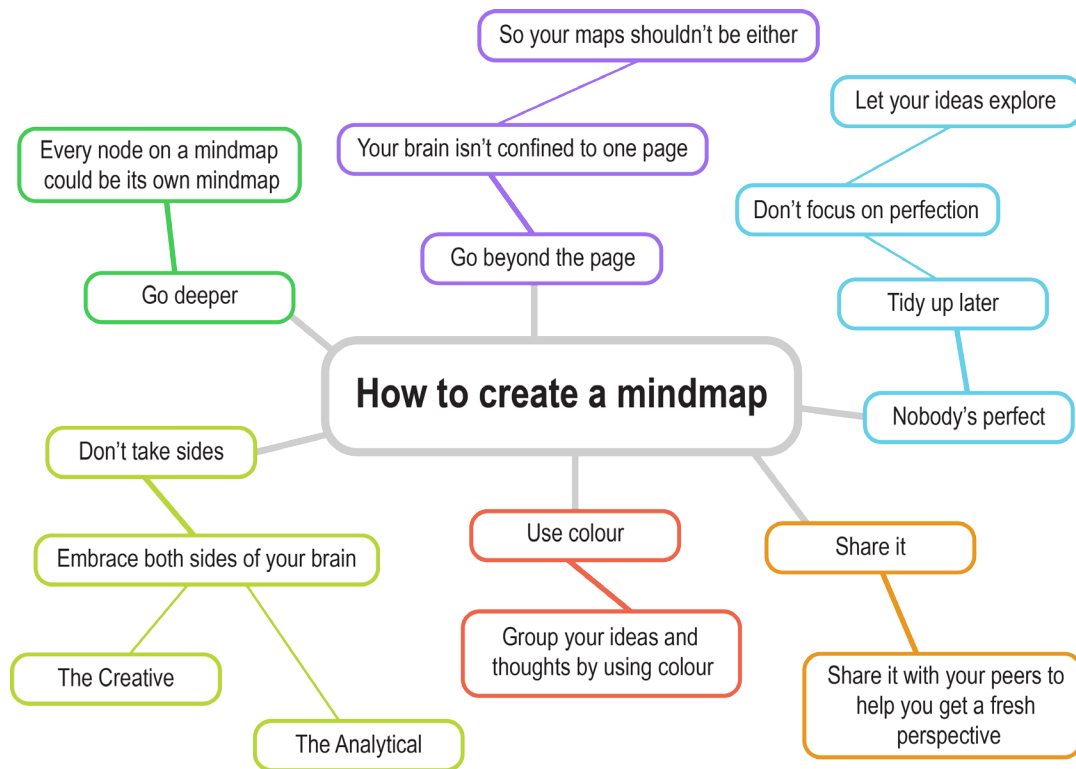
## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Suited to:

- Flat floor
- Tiered lecture
- Small classes
- Large classes



Activity time  
approximately runs for  
10–15 minutes



## WHAT COULD I USE?

- Butchers paper / sticky notes / whiteboards
- Pens / markers / pencils (different colours)

Many digital tools for mind mapping are available. The following tools are not UQ supported and vary from free to pricing plans.

- [Bubbl.us](https://bubbl.us)
- [Mindmeister](https://mindmeister.com)
- [MindMaple](https://mindmaple.com)
- Microsoft Word drawing tools

## WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

- [Tony Buzan Mind Mapping tutorial](#) [video 1:19]
- [Mindmapping in Education](https://www.mindmapping.com) - Mindmapping.com
- [Mindmapping and Learning](#) - Johns Hopkins School of Education
- [Using Mind Mapping Tools to Promote Independent Learning and Study Skills](#) - BBC Active

## WHAT IF I NEED SUPPORT?

- [ITaLI TeachAssist](#) for support curriculum design, evaluation and analytics
- [eLearning Solutions Service](#) customised support
- [eLearning A-Z guide](#) for UQ eLearning tools
- [UQ Library teaching support](#) offers tailored services and hosts [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com) (free online software training)
- [UQ staff development](#) for curriculum development support