

Self-Directed Learning: Mind Maps help! (2)

We have introduced what a mind map is, and in what way it is more brain-friendly in the last issue. But how can it help our studies? How can it be used effectively? We'll try to give you some basic ideas this time.

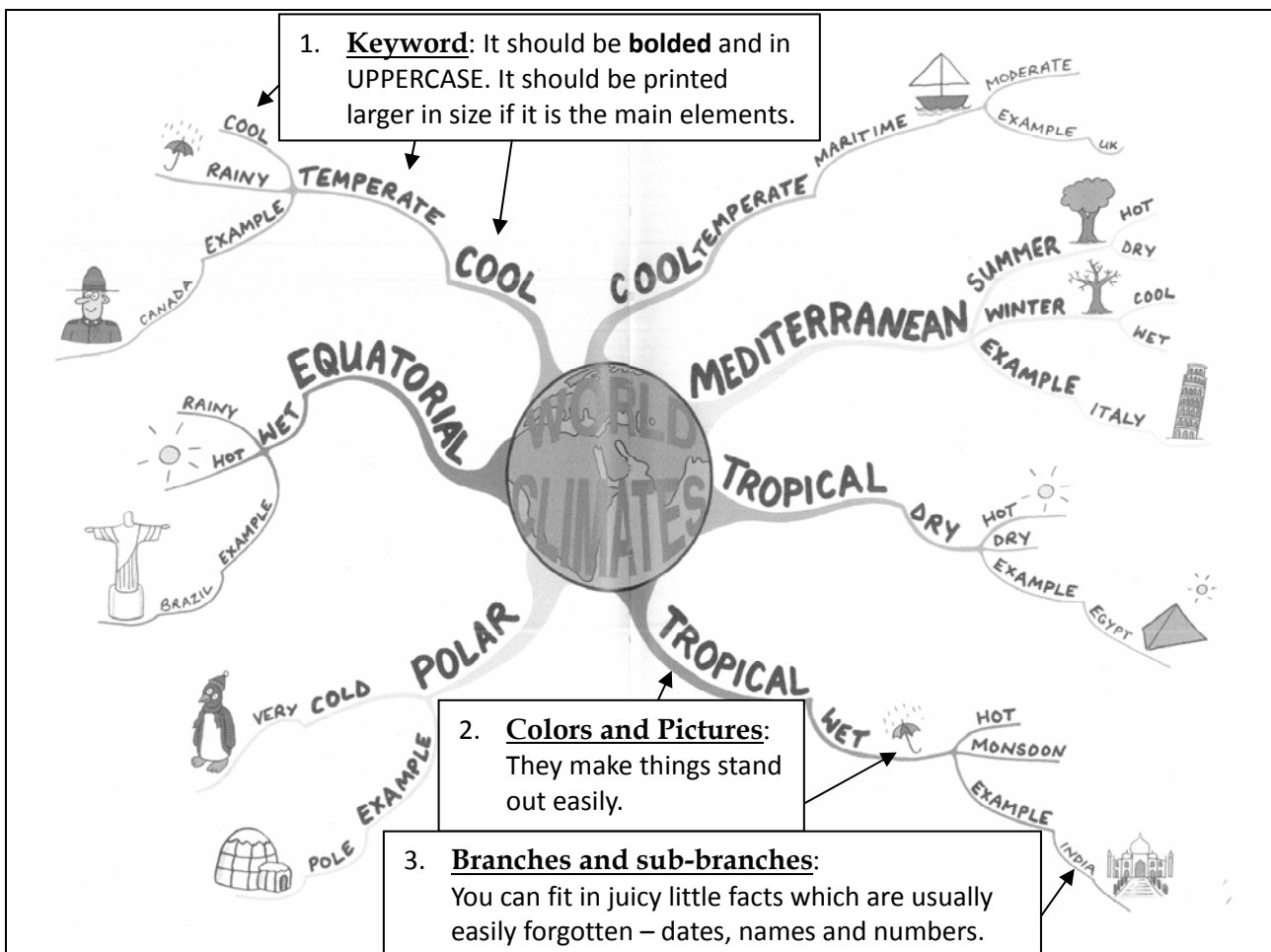
Remembering Things... Mind-mapping is the easiest way of getting answers out of your head. While mind maps are well associated with hierarchies, the main concepts and details will be clearly pointed out and easily accepted. Thus you can focus your mind and be more concentrated studying main maps. Time can also be saved by only noting and reading keywords.

Notes taking with Mind maps You can easily turn a chapter or full page of notes into a brain-friendly mind maps. With ideas clarified and well-illustrated, you will never find it difficult or boring taking and reading notes when doing revisions. It can be used in subjects like HISTORY, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, or even MATHEMATICS!

What should be included? For the contents, it depends on different topics. You may choose your own themes or classifications to draw your main branches. You may also refer to the **"Question Kit"** on the right hand side. The mostly important, you are advised to have a mind map of your **personal style**, so you will never forget it.



Hints making your mind maps... Here is an example of mind map about "world climates" in geography:



With these, you can make revisions twice as well, twice as fast and twice as clearly than using standard notes, and – have more fun! Next time we will talk about how to do projects and write essays with mind maps.

(Reference: Buzan, Tony. *Mind Maps for Kids: the shortcut to success at school*. Thorsons, 2003.)