

# Mind Mapping

Make Learning Fun

## Steps

### 1. Create the Central Image

In the center of the page, write the name of and illustrate the central concept with a recognizable image. Make the central image large enough so you can see the subject of the mind map at a glance, but small enough to leave space to add main ideas and details radiating out of the central image. Make the central image colorful and vivid, but make it a quick and identifiable symbol rather than a beautifully illustrated picture. For our sample mind map at right, "Mind Mapping" is the central concept and image.

### 2. Brainstorm Main Ideas

Brainstorm the main ideas relating to the central topic. Around the central image draw images or symbols to represent the main ideas. Connect the main ideas to the central image with branches, arrows, or spokes. Use key words on or around the main idea, or on the connecting line to identify the main ideas. Alternatively, draw lines radiating out of the main image, with a key word on each line describing the main idea. The main ideas for our sample mind map are: Rationale, Steps, Applications, Construction.

### 3. Add Details

Using colors, images, symbols, and words, draw related details branching out of each of the main ideas. For our sample mind map, details are added to each main idea. For "Rationale," we use words and images to symbolize why we use mind maps: Brain-Based, Understanding, Creativity, Fun, Multiple Intelligences, Memory, ESL. We add additional detail wherever we feel it will help clarify an idea or help us remember the idea better.

