COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Use graphic organisers to embed writing skills development in TVET

This resource supports the development of level 1, stage 3 design capabilities

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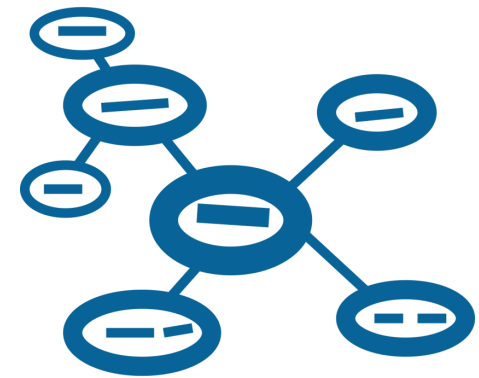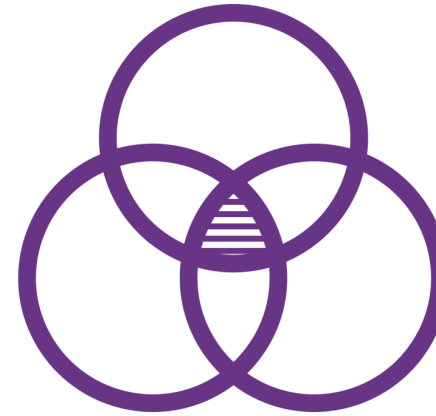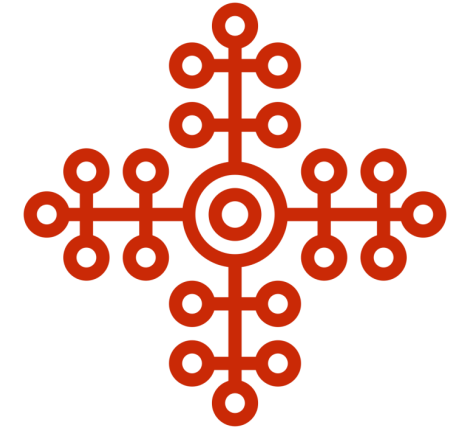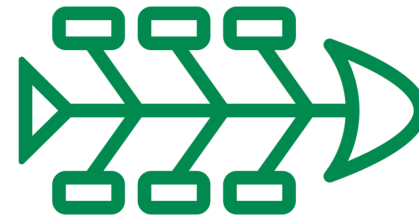- Venn diagrams
- Fishbone diagrams

Introduction

- This resource follows a three-step approach to embedding foundation skills in TVET teaching and learning.

    1. Know the demands: examine the standard to find the foundation skills needed.

    2. Know the learners: use diagnostic assessment to find learners' existing skills.

    3. Know what to do.

- This resource supports you to develop tools to use in Step 3.

- Graphic organisers are a useful way to represent ideas.

- You can adapt these activities to your context, based on the course demands and your learners' needs.

- They might spark some other ideas for you to try.

- If you're not sure about any aspect of these, it can be useful to talk this through with an experienced trainer.

What are graphic organisers?

- Graphic organisers help learners arrange their ideas visually before writing.
- They break down complex information into manageable parts.
- Encourage learners to explore connections between key concepts and terms.
- Useful for planning and structuring written work, enhancing clarity and coherence.
- We will look at four types:
  - Mind maps
  - Concept maps
  - Venn diagrams
  - Fishbone diagrams

The benefits of using graphic organisers

Benefits for learners

- For learners this can be a useful way to:
  - write key words and build vocabulary
  - become familiar with new content
  - organise ideas
  - see the bigger picture alongside more detail
  - brainstorm ideas
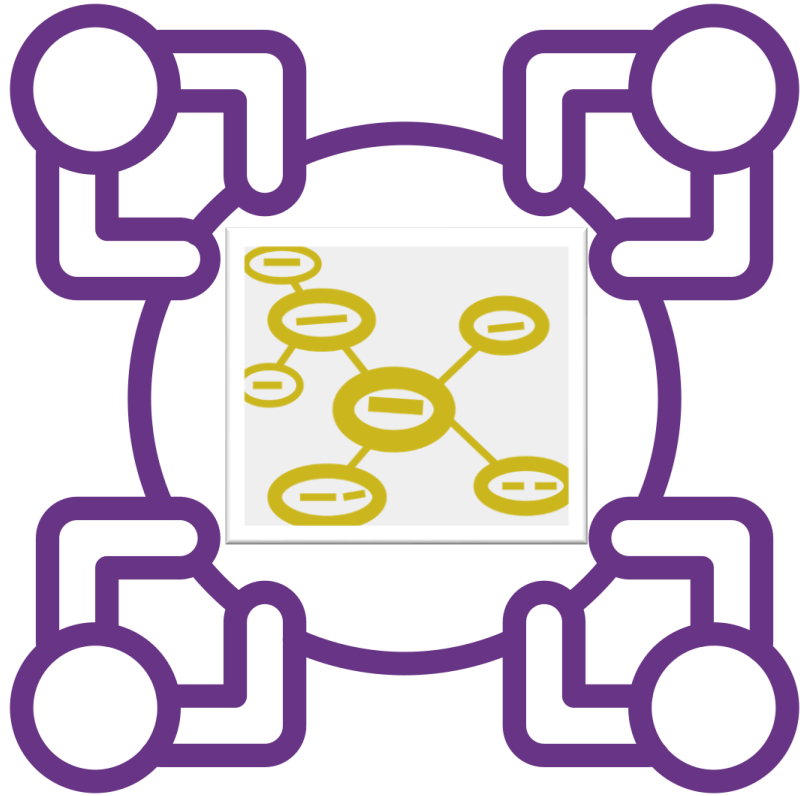 - work from single words and move toward sentences.

Benefits for trainers

For trainers, this is a useful way to:

- spark learners' creativity and innovation
- find out learners' current knowledge on the subject
- develop a visual representation of the subject
- show the relationships between different topics.
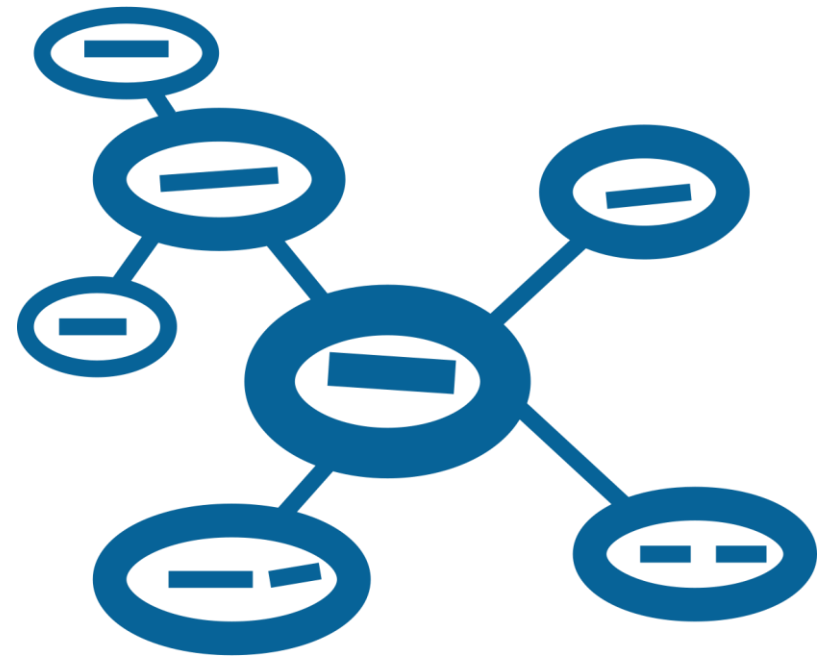
Ways to use graphic organisers

- Use graphic organisers as you work through the new materials or to explore a case study/scenario.

- Work together on a whiteboard, in small groups with large paper, or in pairs.

- Encourage learners to organise their ideas for a report or project plan.

- Use as an assessment task completed individually:
  - Diagnostic assessment
  - Formative assessment
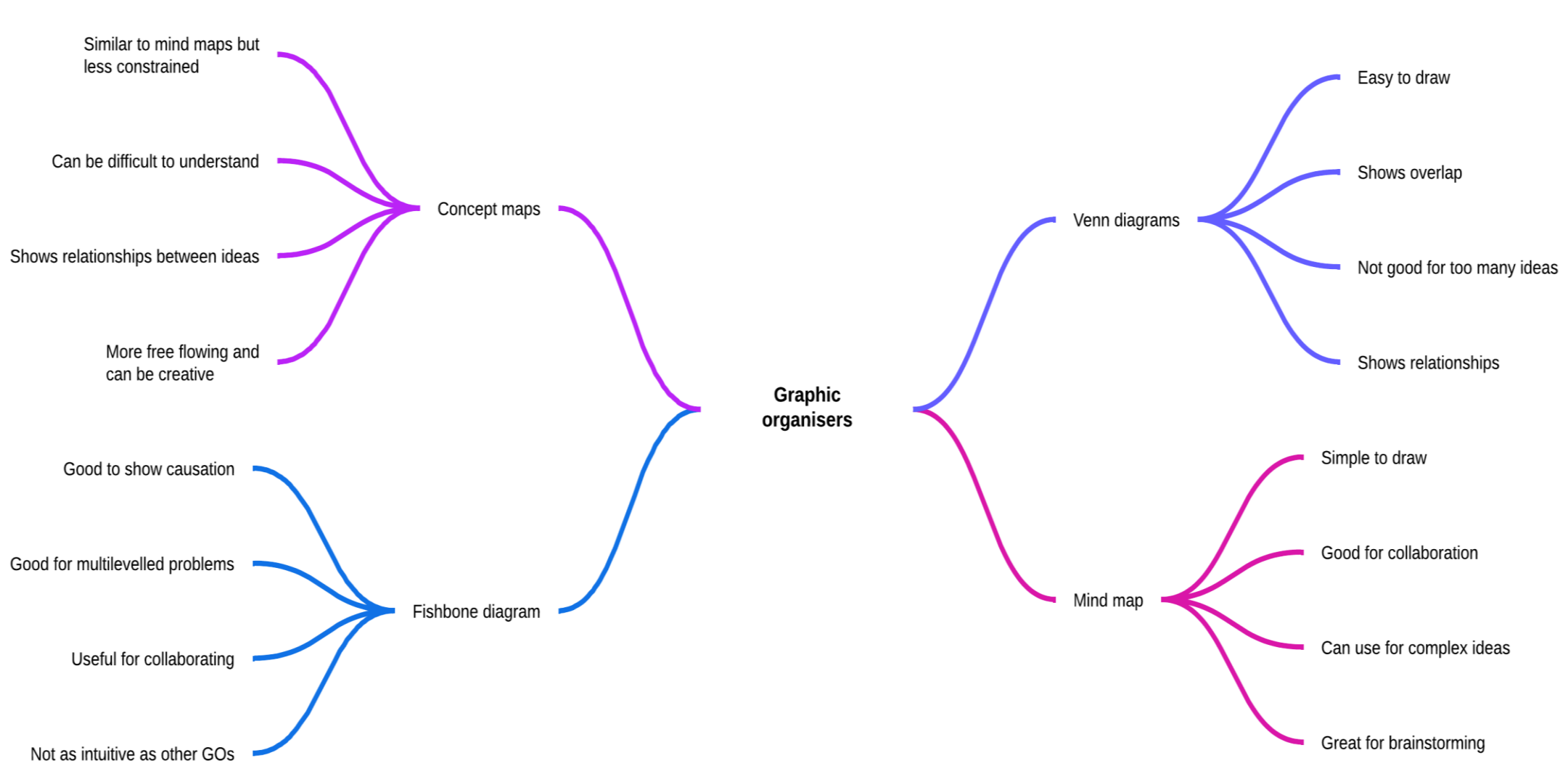 - Summative assessment.

Mind maps

- A mind map starts with a main idea in the centre.
- Branches spread out to show related ideas or topics.
- Each branch can have additional sub-branches, to include complex information in an easy-to-read format.
- Mind maps encourage creative thinking by allowing learners to make connections between ideas.
- This type of graphic organiser is useful for:
  - brainstorming
  - planning projects
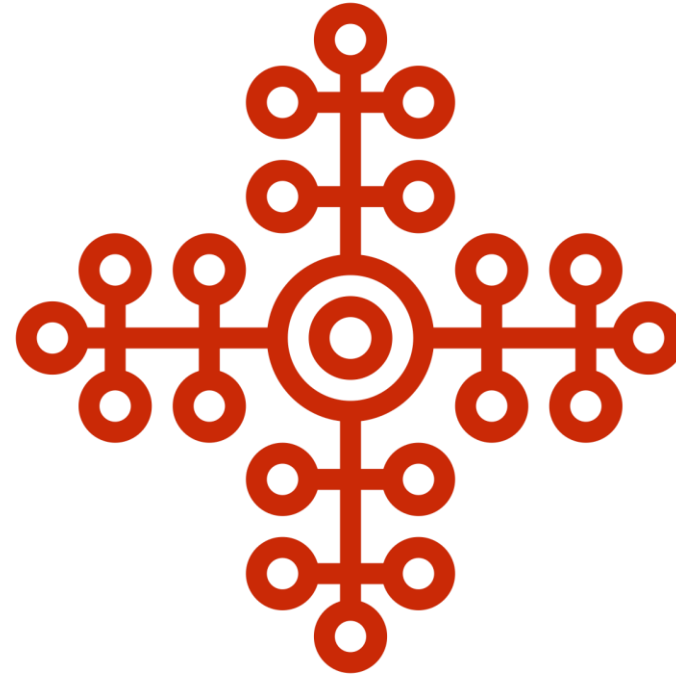 - breaking down large topics into smaller parts.
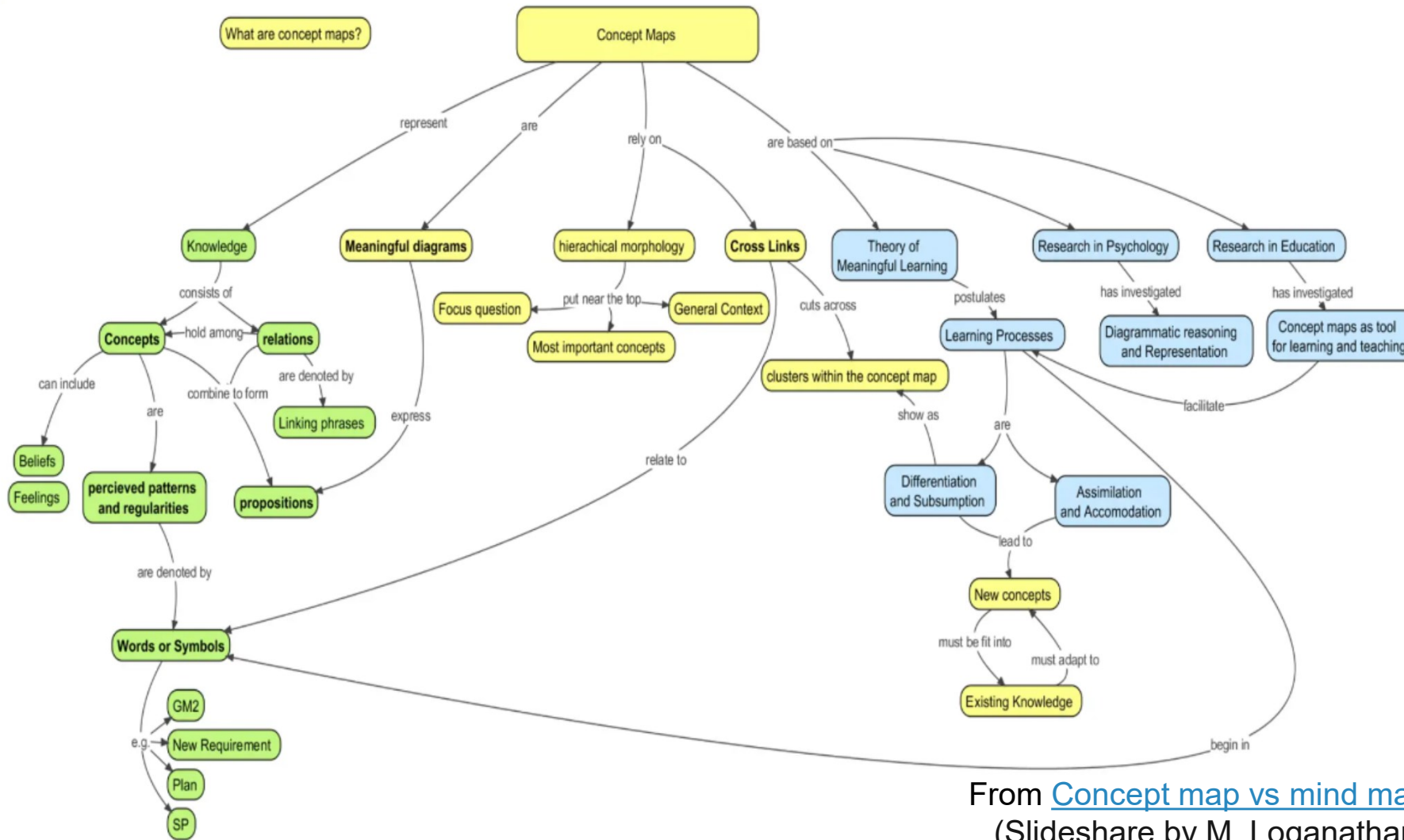
Mind map - example

Concept maps

- Concept maps represent relationships between different ideas.

- They start with a main idea, often at the top or centre, with lines connecting to related concepts or subtopics.

- You can label each connection to show the type of relationship and clarify links between ideas.

- Concept maps are useful for understanding complex topics by breaking them down into smaller, interconnected parts.

- They support critical thinking by encouraging learners to see connections and hierarchies within the information.

Concept map – example 1

From Concept map vs mind map
(Slideshare by M. Loganathan)

Concept map - example 2

From
Art is fun!

Further learning resources on concept maps

AKO Aotearoa (Youtube video 9 mins)

- Agriculture concept map for developing writing skills

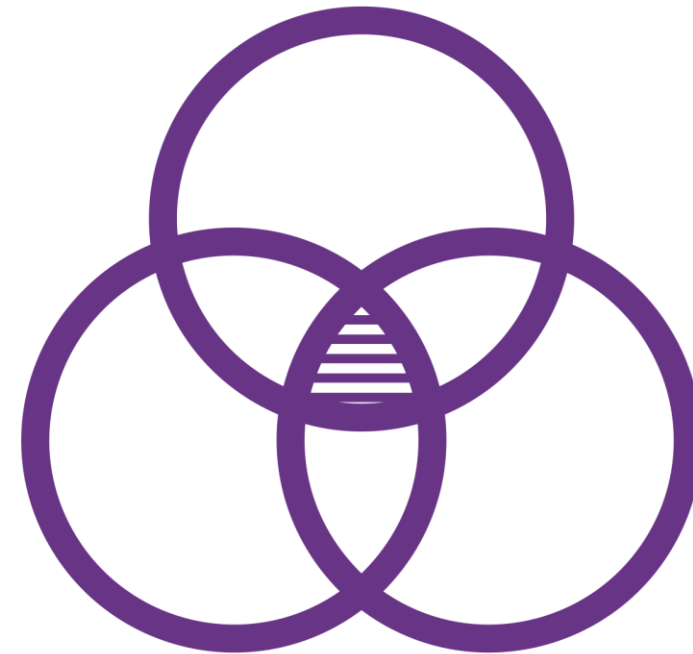Mindmeister (Webpage 7 mins read)

- Why mind mapping? 5 key benefits (+ templates)

Bubble.us (Sign up for a free account)

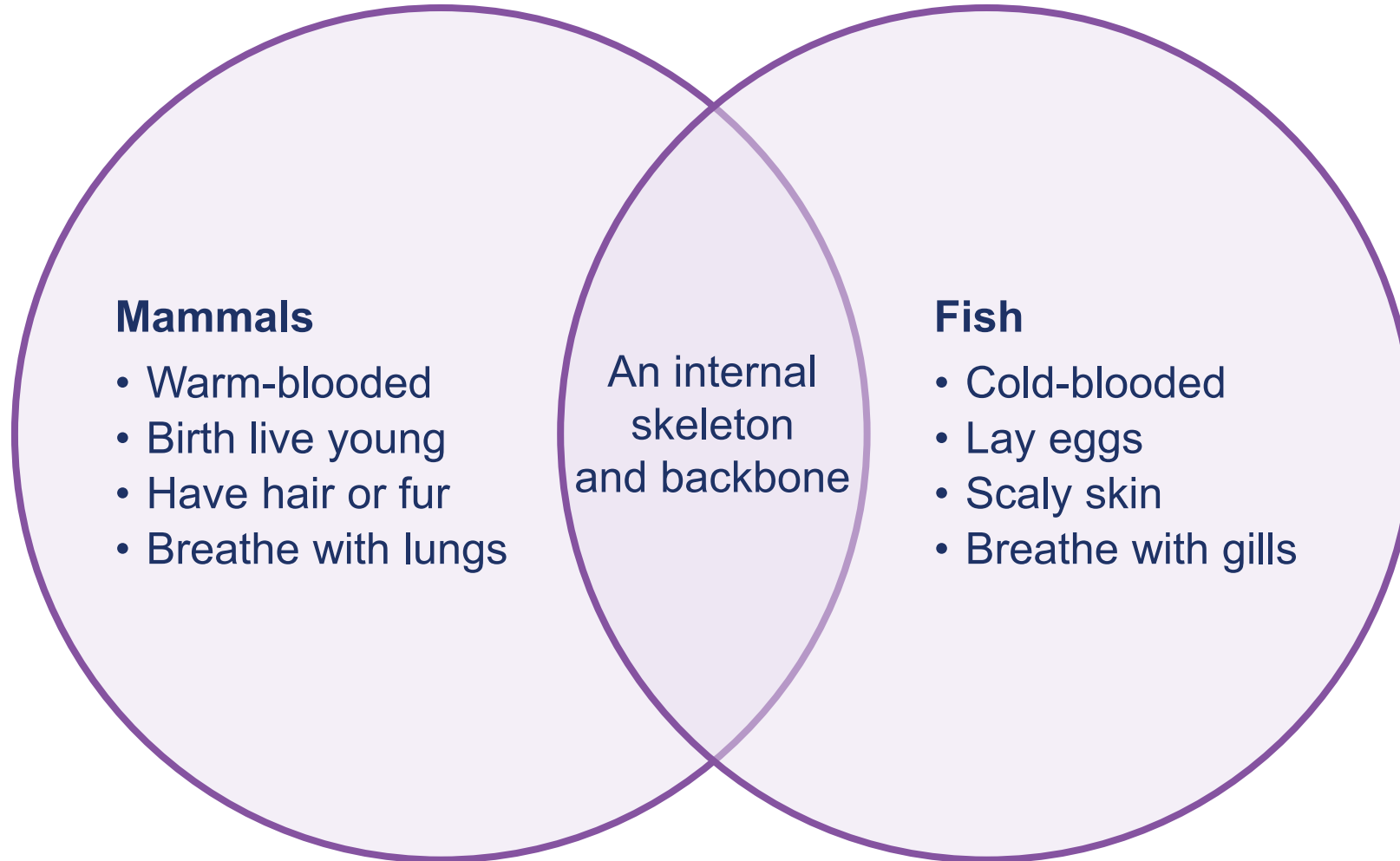- An online app to create mind maps

Venn diagrams

- Venn diagrams use overlapping circles to show what is similar and different between two or more groups.

- The middle (overlapping) part shows what is shared, while the outer parts show what is unique to each group.

- Venn diagrams make it easier to see how things are alike and different.

- They help compare and contrast ideas or groups in a clear way.

- They are useful for organising information and understanding relationships between ideas.
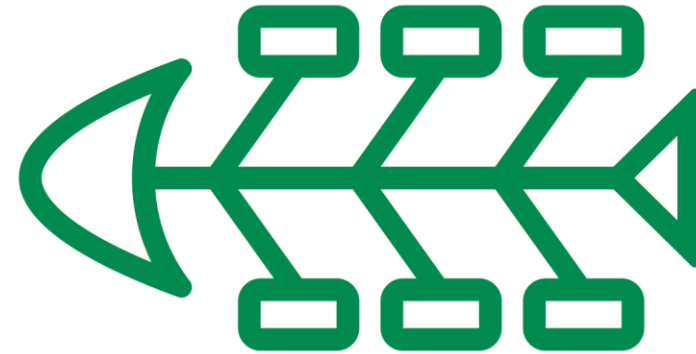
Venn diagram - example

Exploring the similarities and differences between fish and mammals

Mammals
- Warm-blooded
- Birth live young
- Have hair or fur
- Breathe with lungs

An internal skeleton and backbone

Fish
- Cold-blooded
- Lay eggs
- Scaly skin
- Breathe with gills

Fishbone diagrams

- A fishbone diagram helps identify causes of a problem by organising them visually.

- It looks like a fish skeleton, with the "head" showing the main problem and "bones" showing different causes.

- Each "bone" represents a category of causes, like people, process, or materials.

- It helps break down complex problems into smaller parts, making it easier to understand.

- Fishbone diagrams are useful for brainstorming possible causes and finding solutions.

Fishbone diagram - example

Analysing the problem of low student engagement