

## Many Uses of Rubber

Lesson Title: *Inventions of Necessity: Synthetic Rubber*

Page 1 of 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



To explore the many uses of rubber throughout the world, please do the following exercise:

- Create a graph (mind map) that shows the many uses of rubber from 1525 to present day. See below for information on how to do a mind map.
- Expand the map by adding as many products you can think of that have rubber or derivatives of rubber in their composition or construction.
- Bring your map to class for a class discussion.

When you are doing this exercise, look all around you and consider which objects in your environment might contain rubber or a derivative of it.

### How to do a Mind Map

Mind mapping (or concept mapping) involves writing down a central idea and thinking up new and related ideas which radiate out from the centre. By focusing on key ideas written down in your own words, and then looking for branches out and connections between the ideas, you are mapping knowledge in a manner which will help you understand and remember new information. There are five things to keep in mind when doing a mind map:

#### 1. Look for relationships

Use lines, colors, arrows, branches or some other way of showing connections between the ideas generated on your mind map. These relationships may be important in your understanding of new information. By personalizing the map with your own symbols and designs, you will construct visual and meaningful relationships between ideas which will assist in your recall and understanding.

#### 2. Draw quickly on unlined paper without pausing, judging, or editing

All of these things promote linear thinking and the idea of mind mapping is to think creatively and in a non-linear manner. There will be plenty of time for modifying the information later on but at this stage it is important to get every possibility into the mind map. Sometimes it is one of those obscure possibilities that may become the key to your knowledge of a topic.

#### 3. Write down key ideas

You may find that using capital letters encourages you to get down only the key points. Capitals are also easier to read in a diagram. You may, however, wish to write down some explanatory notes in lower case.

#### 4. Put main idea in the center

You may find it useful to turn your page on the side and do a mind map in "landscape" style. With the main idea or topic in the middle of the page, this gives the maximum space for other ideas to radiate out from the center.

#### 5. Leave lots of space

Some of the most useful mind maps are those which are added to over a period of time. After the initial drawing of the mind map, you may wish to highlight things, add information, or add questions. For this reason it is a good idea to leave lots of space.

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Page 2 of 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is an example of a mind map to help you get started.

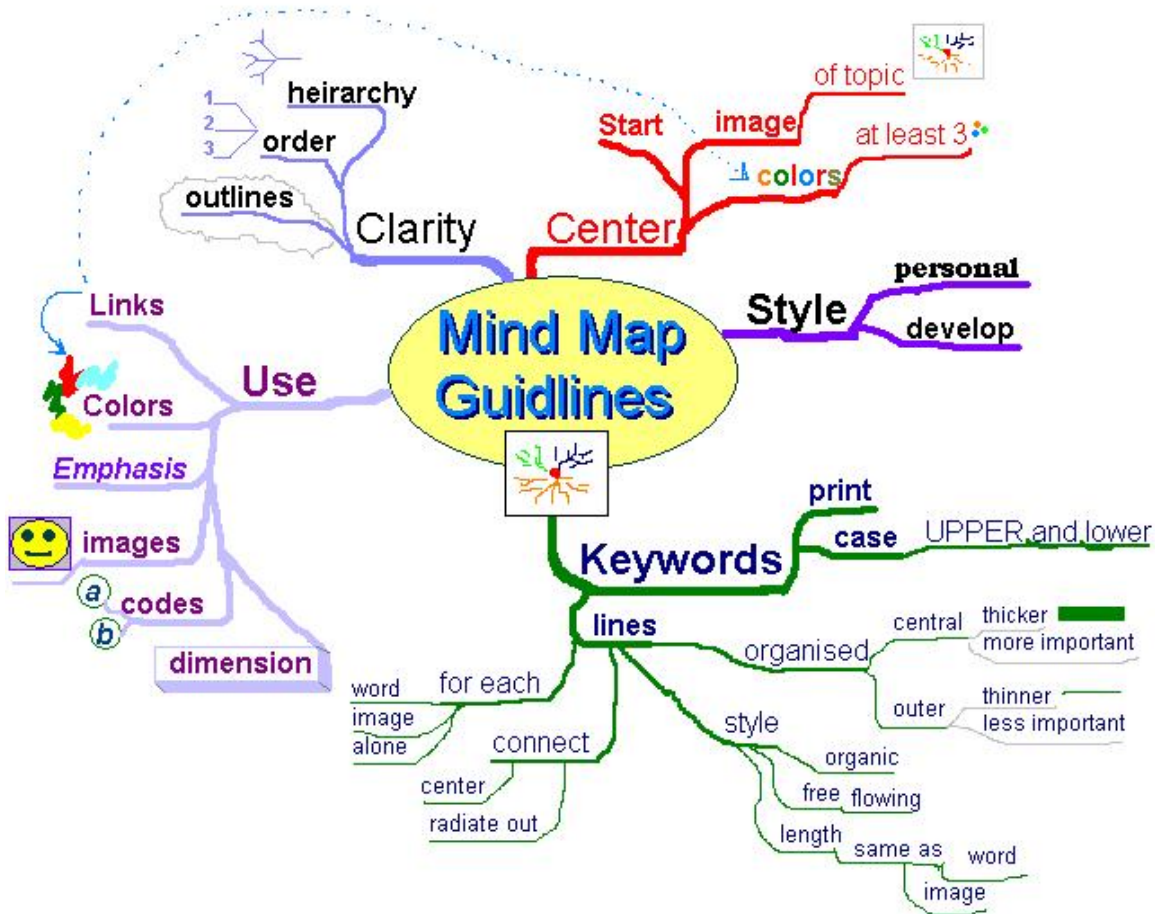


Image Credit: Danny Stevens. 25 June 2006.