

39. Mind maps

Use *Introducing the activity* plus the *Basic activity* and one of the *Variations*, followed by *Drawing things together*. Please read the *Basic activity* before making your choice.

Activities marked with * are particularly suitable for younger pupils.

Teacher's notes

- Any RE topic or unit.

Introducing the activity

With older pupils show examples of mind maps:

http://www.thethinkingbusiness.co.uk/mind_mapping_gallery.html.

Basic activity: RE mind map

RE mind maps can be used at the start of a unit to see how much pupils already know – a form of base line assessment. They can be filled in as the unit progresses and become part of an RE display that the pupils add to as they discover things. They can add questions and responses and links to their experience. Mind maps can also be a way of recapping on an RE unit and capturing the learning. Use a large piece of paper with plenty of room to add both words and images.

1. Write your subject, or use an image, at the centre of the paper.
2. Decide, after discussion, on some main headings, for example, if your subject is churches, your headings might be 'Building', 'People', 'Community', and 'Beliefs'. Connect your main headings (or branches) to your title. Make them different colours so that they are easy to follow. Keep the number of branches low with younger pupils.
3. Focus on a branch at a time, and add details as sub branches, keeping to the correct colour. You can add smaller 'twigs' to the branches. So 'Buildings' may split into 'Inside' and 'Outside'. 'Inside' would have details such as 'altar' and 'pulpit'. (See the examples on the websites.)

4. Add images as you go along. These can be drawn or stuck on.
5. Add a branch called 'Our Space' for pupil questions, responses and links to experience.

* Variation 1: Three dimensional mind maps

Before you start this activity make sure you have the supply of objects and images that you need. Talk with the pupils about the RE topic they have been exploring.

- Write the name of the subject and add a picture or object and place it on the floor.
- In discussion with the pupils write key words with pictures on smaller sheets of paper, or add objects if appropriate. These are the main headings. Place them around the topic title. Do not have too many of these.
- When pupils offer some information discuss and decide which heading it goes under.
- Write the information and place it in the correct position. Pupils can find pictures or objects to place with it.
- To make it look like a mind-map, use ribbon or wool to create the lines.
- Add an extra heading for the pupils' responses and links to experience.
- Photograph your finished map.

Drawing things together

Give pupils time to walk around or look at the finished maps. (Make sure this is done safely.) Once they have grasped it as a whole, ask if there are any alterations they would like to make, and why.