

Tim Benton - Year 7 and 8 Learning and Revision Session. Follow up.

Hello colleagues. I've run sessions today for both Years 7 & 8. In isolation, they will have some impact, but it would massively increase the effectiveness of these workshops if you could be able to reinforce any of the following over the next few weeks in order to imbed the skills and mindsets. The idea is that they learn and use revision skills now and get in good learning habits sooner rather than later.

Many thanks

Tim

6th May 2015

A-Z

This is a plenary revision activity. The idea is that students write A to Z down the margin of the page and try to think of something for each letter which relates to the topic. Some letters will be easy, others will require more creativity and thought.

You could do this as a whole task effort on the white board, or as an individual activity.

Or both!

Here's one I did with Yr 8 for Geography (Boxing Day Tsunami):

AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM NEEDED
BEACH GETS BIGGER BEFORE TSUNAMI
CUBIC KILOMETRES OF WATER
DISPLACED WATER
EARTH QUAKES
FLOODING
GETTING SLOWER IN SHALLOW WATER
HEIGHT CHANGES NEARER THE COAST
IN THE MIDDLE IS THE EPICENTRE
JAPAN BADLY AFFECTED
KILLED - 250,000 PEOPLE
LARGE WAVES MOVING FROM EPICENTRE
MOVING PLATES
NEAR INDONESIA (WORST AFFECTED)
QUAKE
RESPONSES
SEABED
TSUNAMI AFFECTED TOURISM
UNDER WATER EARTHQUAKES
VERTICAL JOLTS
WAVES
X MAS. HAPPENED ON BOXING DAY
Y DID IT HAPPEN?
Z EBRAS DID NOT DIE

Story

Learning a list of ideas as a story. We did this for a group of 20 random objects, then applied it to Reasons Why Romans Invaded Britain:

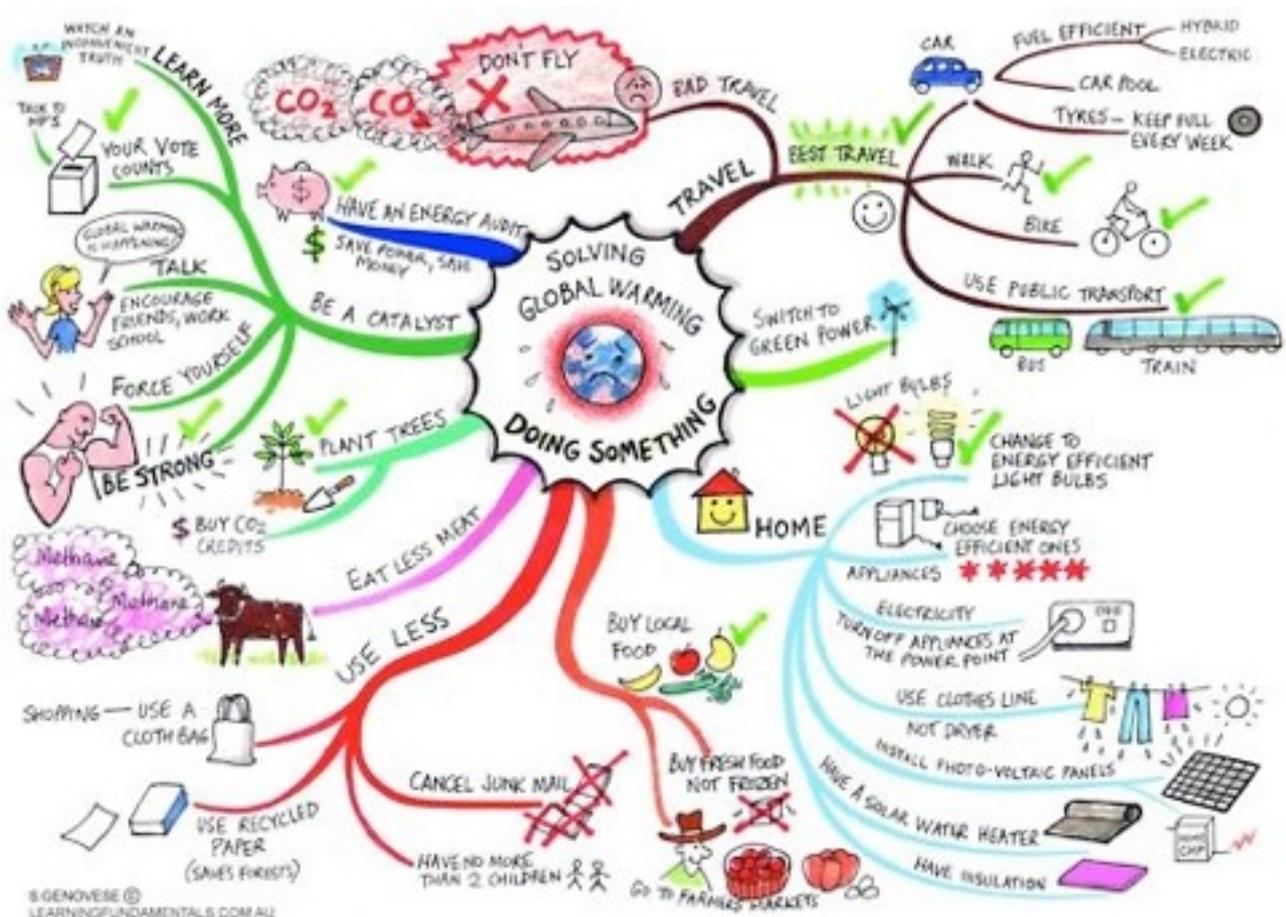
- To make **Slaves**
- For **Wool**
- For **Leather**
- To expand their **Power**
- To mine for **Tin**
- Caesar's **Ambition**
- Revenge** for helping the Gauls
- Farm **Corn**
- Mine **Gold**
- Harvest **Wood**

I have knitted an army of SLAVES out of WOOL who I control like puppets on LEATHER strings. I enjoy having the POWER to control them and have given them TIN swords. They will help achieve my AMBITION to get REVENGE on the person who stole the CORN from my GOLD lunchbox and replaced it with a lump of WOOD.

You get the idea...

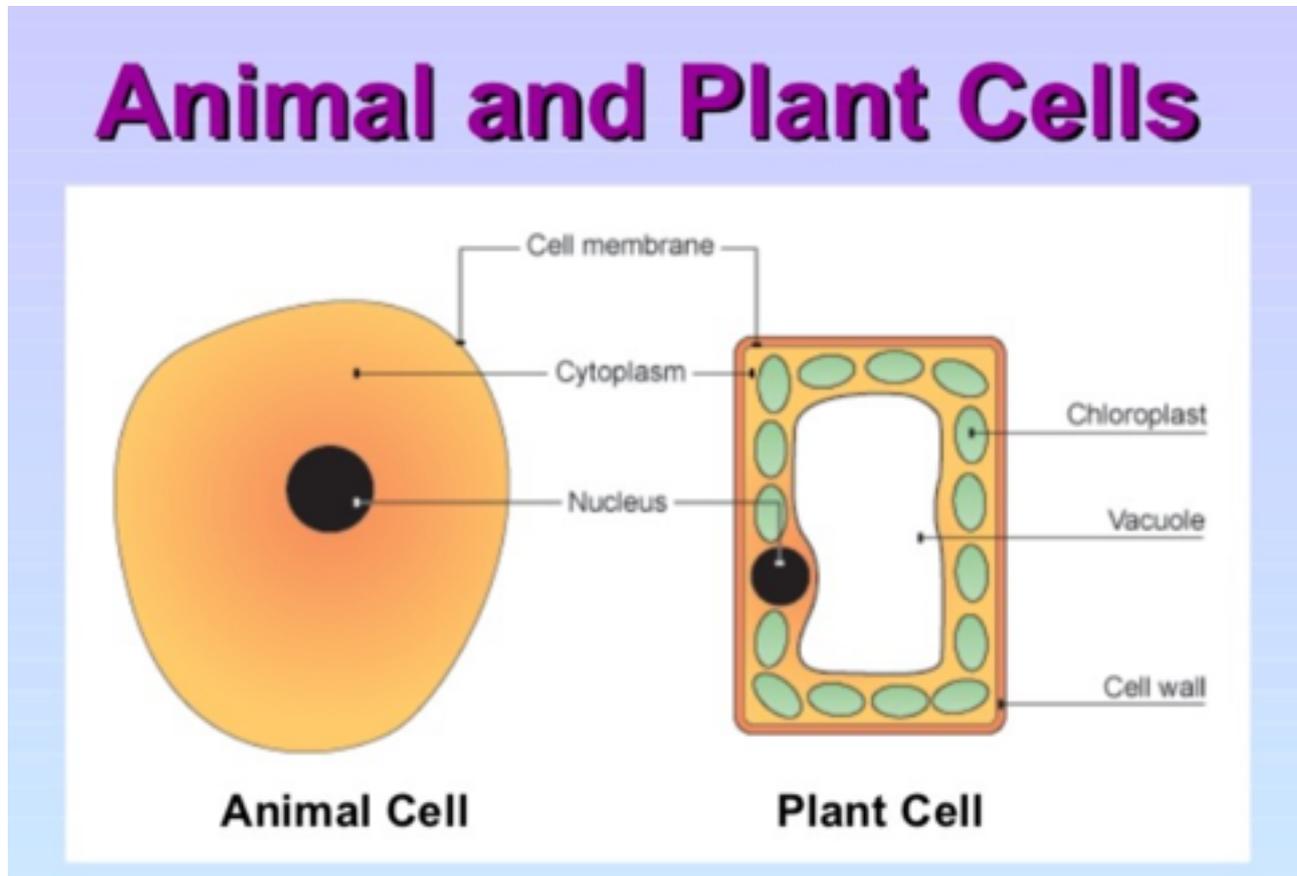
MIND MAPS

We created a mind map together on the flipchart and then got them to try and recreate it from memory as a revision exercise. It would be great if you could practice this with them; lots of colours and small diagrams.



Post Cards

I've suggested making postcard sized flash cards, which they can put by their bedside for a couple of days - last thing they see at night, first thing in the morning. Within a few days they should know it. This is sold as a 'smart not hard' form of revision. A couple of Q and As on the back would be even more useful. Maybe model a few in class to take home, to give them the idea...



Chunking

I talked about reducing notes down to smallest possible thing to remember.. Start with dinner plate sized circle - write/draw in as much as they can fit. Then use side plate - fewer words and pictures but enough to remember the same amount of detail. Then saucer size and so on. Eventually they should be able to reduce a topic down to an image which would fit on the back of a coin! Draw what you've learnt last lesson:



Top Ten

Simple idea - they write the Top Ten things to know about each topic.

Ten Questions

Start with ten questions from the topic you've covered. They can then search through their books to find the answers. When they've got through all Ten (and can answer from memory), they get a new Ten. Good to do this as a competition in teams/tables.

Other things covered:

FIRM learning

Framework - eg a story, learning on a hand, Top 10, A-Z.

Imagery - Postcards, mindmaps.

Repeated - testing themselves/others eg, 10 Questions.. Learn in 15 min revision chunks.

Memorable - engaging the heart so the head learns.

4 Ms

Mind - think about it

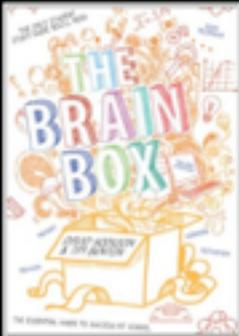
My Resources - read about it

Mouse - click about it

Mate - talk about it

Miss or Mr - share your thoughts about it with the teacher

More ideas to be found in Tim's book The Brain Box:



"Best book EVER"

THE BRAIN BOX

Tim Benton and David Hodgson

Available NOW on 

Not a boring 'how to' book I can't imagine anyone reading even a few pages of this book without finding a stack of handy tips for life in general... Buy it!

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FANTASTIC BOOK It's a zippy, catchy, funny romp through how your brain works, how you learn and how to make the most of your chances.

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Five Stars! Lots of useful ideas...easily accessible

★ ★ ★ ★ ★