

1. PREDICT, ACTIVATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND READ

1. Read the explanation below. Then, read the instruction about making a mind map.

EXPLANATION

Before you read a text, you can make a **prediction** about what the text is about. And you can think of what you already know about that topic. In that way, you **activate your background knowledge**. This can help you to understand a text better.

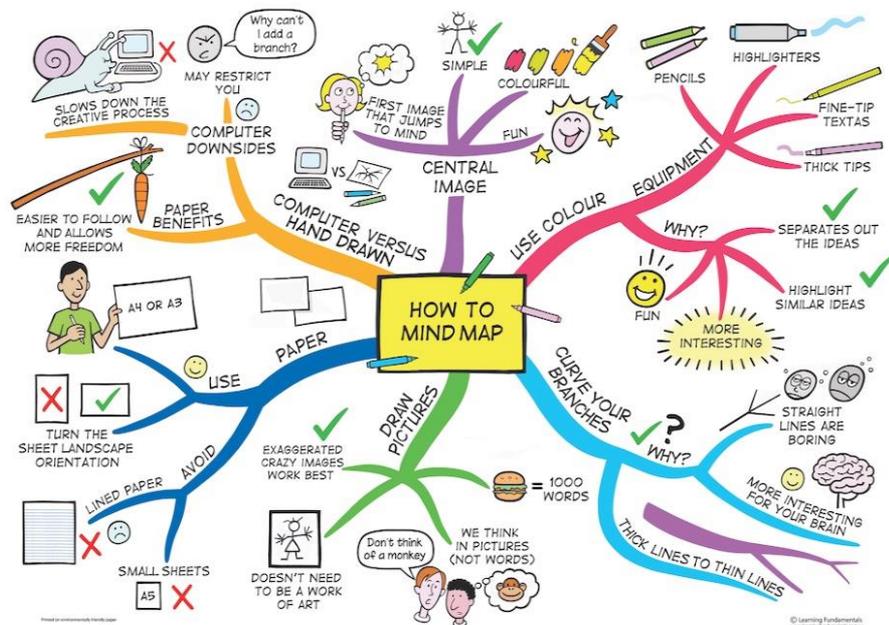
KEY VISUAL

A **mind map** is a kind of **word web** with **colours and drawings**.

A mind map gives you an overview of the text.

This is how you make a **mind map**:

- Use a blank sheet.
- Write the topic of the text in the middle of this sheet.
- Write the most important things about this topic down. Write them around the topic. Underline those words or sentences with different colours.
- Write next to each important word or sentence the information that you think is important. Underline these words and sentences with the same colour, but draw a thinner line.
- Draw pictures to make your mind map clearer.
- Use different colours.



2. Before reading the text **Happy Valentine's Day**:
 - **Predict** what the text is going to tell you about the topic.
 - **Activate your background knowledge**: what do you **already know** about Valentine's Day? Start making a mind map with a pencil. Write down as many things as you can, together you know more!
3. Now, read the text in small groups. Use the **Step-by-step Reading Guide**, if you need it. Use the **Word help** if you come across a word you don't understand.

2. COMPLETE THE MIND MAP

1. Complete the mind map about *Valentine's Day*. Add the information from the text in your mind map. Use a different coloured pen.
2. Did the text offer you new information?

3. Compare the information based on your background knowledge with the information from the text. Was your background knowledge accurate?

4. Which information from the text was new to you? Give an example.

3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Read the introductory sentence again: 'Valentine is just around the corner, ready to shower us with flowers, heart shaped sweets, chocolates, cards and other presents [...].'

Which of the following sentences expresses the meaning the best?

- A It is Valentine's Day very soon; many presents will be given on this day.
- B It is Valentine's Day very soon; it's always raining this time of the year.
- C It is Valentine's Day very soon; get ready quickly and take a good shower!
- D It is Valentine's Day very soon, and we can choose from all kinds of presents.

2. Read the paragraph **St. Valentine** again. Why did priest Valentine find it important that men and women should be married?

3. What is 'a valentine' actually? Give a proper definition; make use of the text.

4. 'Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards, second only to Christmas' (line 45-47). What does this mean?

A Valentine's Day is the most popular day of the year, but Christmas holds the record for sending cards.

B Christmas Day is the most popular day of the year, but Valentine's Day is the most popular day for sending cards.

C Valentine's Day is the most popular day of the year for sending cards, with Christmas in the second place.

D Christmas Day is the most popular day of the year for sending cards, Valentine's Day comes second place.

5. In the paragraph **A commercial success** two ideas are mentioned about Valentine's Day going commercial. Note the two ideas.

(1) _____

(2) _____

6. What can you give to a good friend on Valentine's Day? How can you indicate you are not a secret admirer of him or her?

7. Which examples are given of 'an out of the ordinary valentine' (line 66-67)?

8. What do you think a 'Roses are red, violets are blue poem' (line 70-71) is?

9. What do you think of Valentine's Day? Do you like this special day, or not? Give reasons; be as clear as you can.



4. LOVE POEMS FOR BEGINNERS

1. Read the following poems:

I'm In Love With You

It's the way you say I love you and the way you hold my hand
There's just so much about you I completely understand
It's the twinkle in your eye that I only see when you look at me
It's the warmness of your hands it sends a shock straight to my feet
It's how you always amaze me, you surprise me all day long
This I know is true
Baby, I'm in love with you!

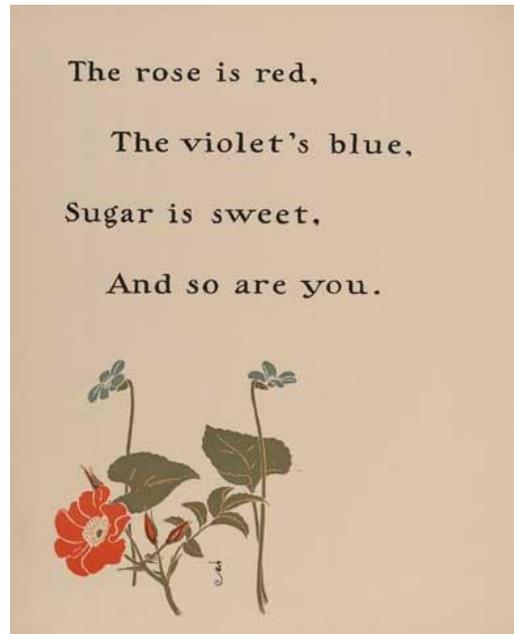
Meagan D. Murdoch

Be My Valentine Forever

I love you for a lifetime
Not only for a day
I love you for who you are
Not what you do or say

I love the way you love me back
So there is only one thing I can say
I love you baby with my heart and soul and every
other way
So will you be my valentine not only for one day.

Belinda Galea



- What do you think of these poems? Do you like them?
- Which one do you like best and why? Give three arguments.

2. Now, try and make a Valentine poem yourself. You may use the 'eleven' form. An 'eleven' poem is a poem that contains eleven words and five lines. Here is an example:

line 1: one word	<i>Oh</i>
line 2: two words	<i>My darling</i>
line 3: three words	<i>Please be mine</i>
line 4: four words	<i>Stay with me forever</i>
line 5: one special word to finish the poem	<i>Valentine!</i>

So, write your Valentine poem in the 'eleven' form. However, you may also choose your own poem form.

