Core units: Inquiry and skills
Illustration 2: Contemporary geographical issues and the media – Year 6

A guide to mind mapping

A mind map is a diagram used to present ideas that are linked to and arranged around a central key word, idea, issue or concept. The aim of the mind map is to visually represent the links between ideas and pieces of information.

Mind mapping guidelines
When constructing a mind map, it is important to follow the guidelines below.

1. Start in the center with the key concept, issue, event or topic that you are considering.
2. Use images and symbols throughout your mind map where appropriate.
3. Select key words and write them along their own line on the map (use upper or lower case letters).
4. It is best to have each image or word sitting on its own line.
5. Lines can be curved for flexibility about how images, symbols and words are placed and linked.
6. The ideas should be connected, starting from the central image. The central lines are thicker and flowing, and become thinner as they radiate out from the centre.
7. Use multiple colours throughout the mind map for visual stimulation and also to encode or group elements.
8. Develop your own personal style of mind mapping.
9. Use emphasis and show associations in your mind map.
10. Keep the mind map uncluttered.

Sample mind map with media-based sources of information