

2.1 Introduction to Identity - The Nature and Importance of Identity: Who Am I?

Objectives

- To encourage the students to think about how their identity has been created and what it means to them
- To demonstrate the importance of being able to identify oneself
- To consider the situation of people who cannot identify themselves

Previous preparation

- It must be stressed to students that this is an exercise to explore the nature of identity that involves the discussion of personal information.
- No one should feel that they have to reveal anything that they don't want to.
- If they prefer to refer to the identity of another (non-identified!) person and discuss those details instead, that is fine.
- If there are pupils who feel uncomfortable with this subject, the teacher may decide to give them the option of observing the lesson rather than participating, or of writing their responses down rather than discussing them.

Introduction (25%)

Introduce the students to the idea of identity and the difference between legal and personal identities and how they interrelate. Personal identity is made up of all the factors that influence personal identity such as gender, age, religion, nationality, ethnicity etc. Explain that legal identity is of crucial importance because it enables you to be entitled to education, social security, health care, to leave and return to your country, to prove your age, to find formal employment, to own property, to have a bank account, to have protection from the government against war and neglect, to get married, to vote and to receive inheritance. *Those that do not have legal identity may have not enforceable human rights.*

Development (50%)

Whole group Discussion led by teacher

Develop the theme of the importance of knowing more than your own name to identify yourself. This work can be done in pairs.

Possible leading questions, according to the nature of the group, include:-

- Who knows where their birth certificate is and what it is for? YES OR NO answers, as this will be developed in a later module.
- So far, in which circumstances have you been asked what your name is and where you live?
- In the future, which life events will require you to identify yourself in order to develop yourself and participate fully in society?
- How would it make a person feel if s/he knew from the start that s/he could not provide the necessary information to register with a doctor, take examinations at school, enrol at university, get a legal job, receive state

- benefits, get married etc.?
- Why should we care?

Conclusion (25%)

Individual Writing

Note down the 3 main new ideas you think you have learned from this module.

Thinking ahead

It may be useful to let the students know they will be doing a mind map on Identity and give them the Resource Sheet on 'What is a Mind Map?' so they can prepare some ideas.

Teacher Evaluation:

Comments on the class:

Pupil specific comments:

Observation and evaluation of the class:

Resource Sheet - What is a mind map?

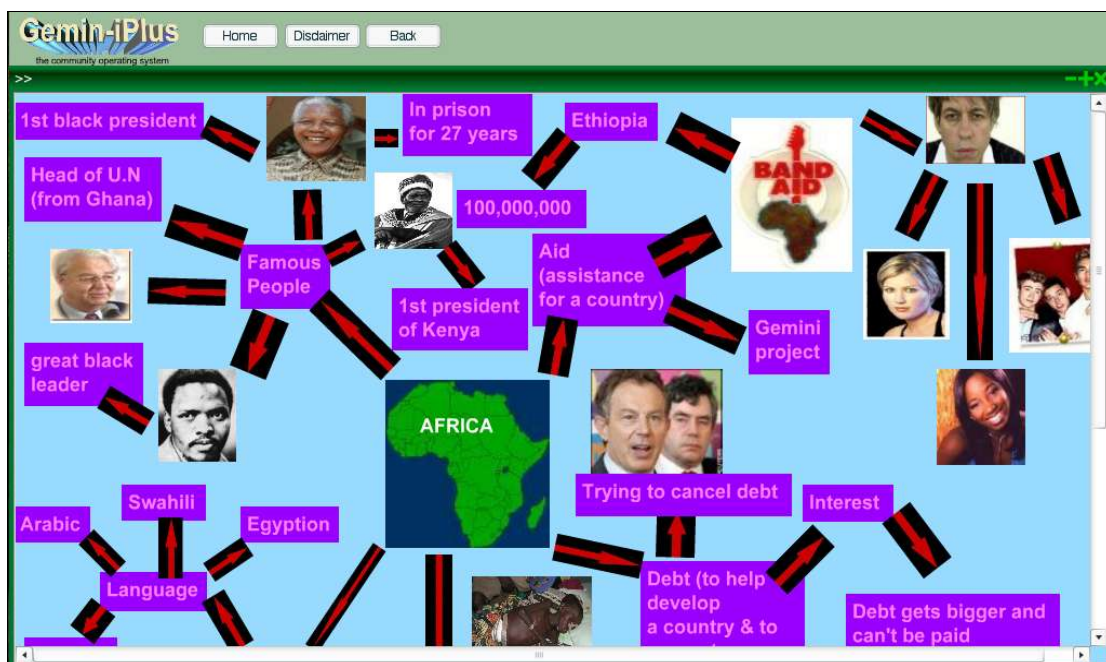
A mind map is a diagram made of words and pictures. There is no such thing as a right or wrong mind map, but some are better than others.

The good ones have plenty of ideas that are linked by strong associations to

each other. In this way the reader can see easily how the writer of the mind map is thinking.

This is how you make a mind map:

- Take a piece of paper.
- Write your main theme or question in the middle of the page.
- Draw lines from the middle to other words or short phrases that answer your question. Try to work quickly and not hesitate too much - write down ideas as they pop into your head.
- From these ideas, draw more lines to further associated ideas
- Your diagram will look something like an octopus, or the roots of a plant, as legs or branches spread out across the page.
- Continue creating branches until you feel you have answered your question or covered your theme.
- When you make a mind map you can also use pictures, icons, symbols or illustrations.
- You can always go back to the start and create new branches, and add to old ones later. If you run out of room just stick on extra pieces of paper!
- To upload a mind map on the Gemin-i Plus software you can draw it in Power Point, save it as a jpg. file and import it onto your page as a picture. You can also draw it directly onto the page, use your imagination!



Here is an example of a simple mind map made using Gemin-i Plus on the theme of Africa: