Sevensteps

Step 1: Plan for Success
Think Tank

Learning Intention

We are learning to generate great story ideas using brainstorming and mind-mapping techniques.

Success Criteria

Beginner	0–2 marks	Contribute at least one idea.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	Contribute at least two ideas.
Advanced	6–7 marks	Contribute several ideas.

I Do – Model the Technique

- **Explain technique:** The first ideas are usually the worst ideas because those are the ones everyone else thinks of too, so come up with TEN ideas to find just ONE great idea.

- **Model strategy:** As a class, brainstorm TEN ideas for the topic: Fly.

  First ideas:
  - Flies annoying you on the beach.
  - I dreamt I could fly.

  More original ideas:
  - Using an umbrella as a parachute.
  - A TV presenter being pestered by flies.
  - Enrolling in a flying wing lesson.

  As a class, fleshing out the initial ideas:
  - The day my sister convinced me that an umbrella would work just as well as a parachute when jumping off the shed roof. (It didn't.)
  - A brand new TV presenter has to do 20 takes because flies keep landing on his face.
  - A flying wing is the closest thing to flying yet. So I enrolled in a lesson and …

  Have class vote to select the best idea.

We Do – Group Work

- Form groups of 3–4.
- Give students FIVE minutes to brainstorm TEN story ideas for the topic: Gold.

You Do – Individual Activity

- Give each student a copy of the 'Mind Map' template on page 3.
- Ask each student to pick their favourite idea from the brainstorm.
- Give students TWO minutes to flesh out the idea individually by writing associated words, thoughts and ideas around their central idea.

Feedback

- Ask students to share their ideas with a couple of other groups to demonstrate how many ideas can be generated by brainstorming one topic in groups.
- Ask each group to pick the best idea based on the mind maps they have created and share it with the class.

> ### Review
>
> **In this lesson, we have learnt how to use brainstorming and mind-mapping techniques to generate great story ideas.**

Differentiation

- **Too hard?** Use the following ideas as a starting point:
  - A wedding ring found on the beach.
  - A sickly child living during the gold rush.
  - A gold nugget discovered on a school excursion.
  - A golden sunsets, sand and memories from a holiday.
  - A wedding proposal that went horribly wrong.
- **Too easy?** Students flesh out multiple story ideas using the template on page 3 and pick the best one.

Mind Map Template

Associated words, thoughts or ideas

Associated words, thoughts or ideas

Central Idea

Associated words, thoughts or ideas

Associated words, thoughts or ideas