

# Concept Maps

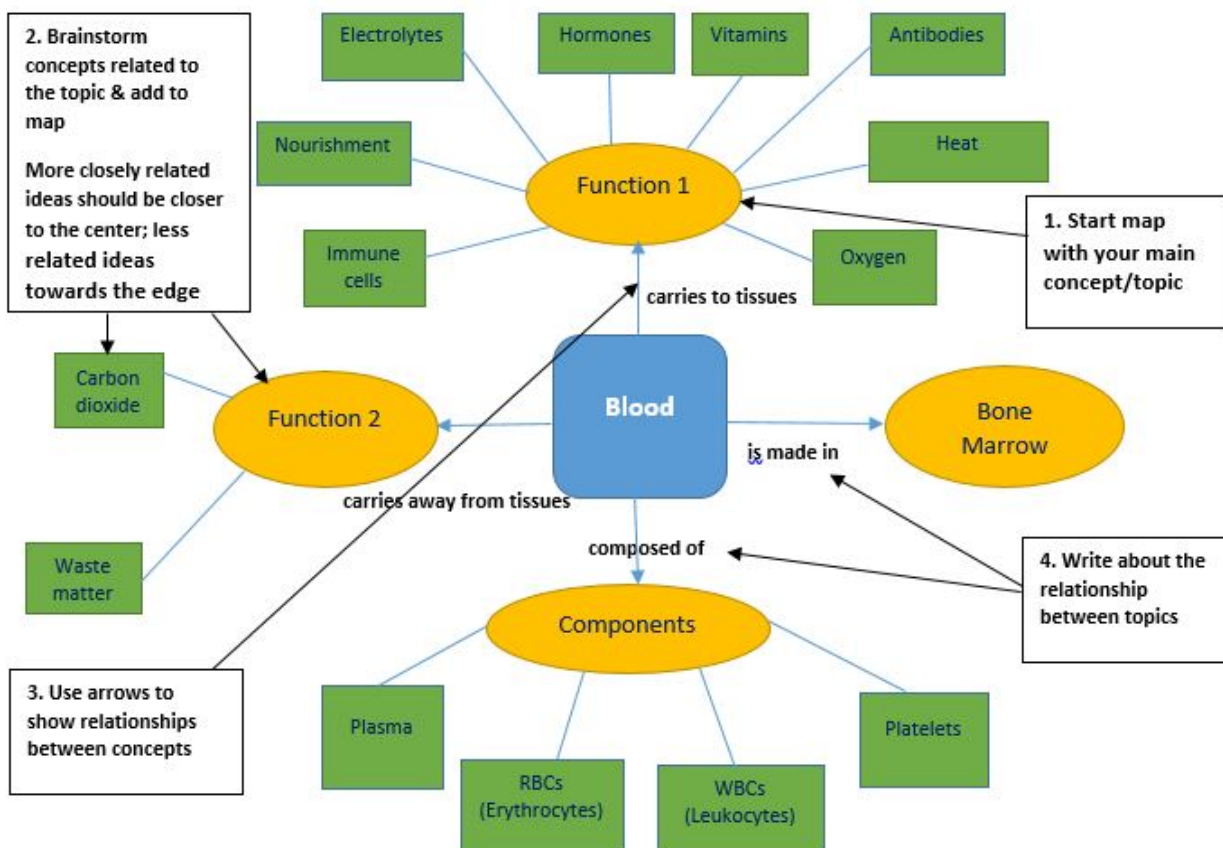


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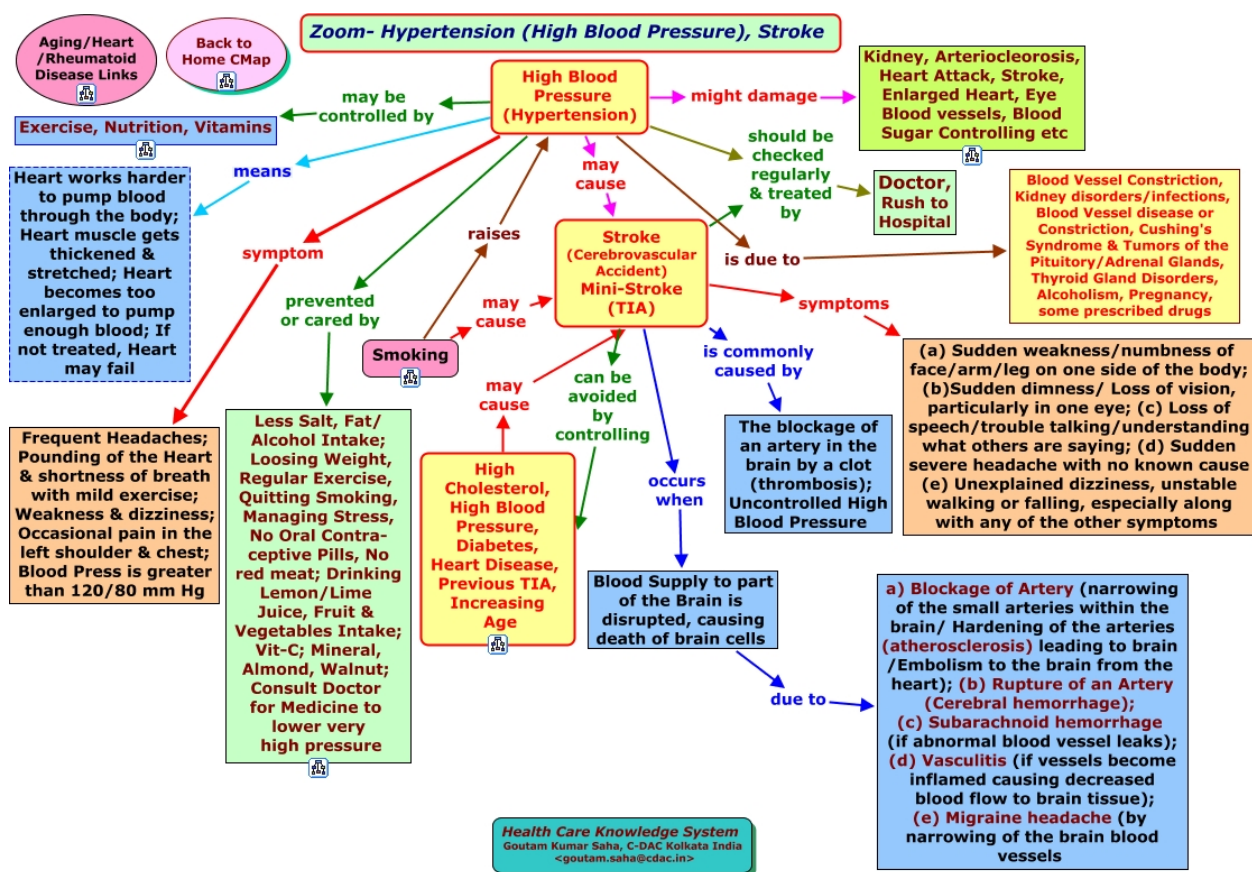
**Concept maps** are tools that help learners visually organize and represent knowledge. They assist in bringing together large concepts and key ideas. It helps to connect and integrate new information to existing knowledge and represent relationships between concepts. They can be created on paper or with computer software.

They can range from simple to complex. Concept maps are usually hierarchical in structure with subordinate concepts stemming from the main concept, idea, or question. When building the concept map, begin with a broad concept, connect to subtopics, and then to more specific topics (see example below).



\*Use different colors and shapes to distinguish between different domains.

Here is an example of a more complex concept map.



Source: <http://www.rims.edu.in/HealthCareCDACKolgsaha/Zoom-Hypertension.html>

There are many benefits of utilizing concept maps including:

- Helps students brainstorm and generate new ideas
- “Helps students see relationships between ideas, concepts, or authors
- Utilizes the full range of the left and right hemispheres of the brain
- Helps memory recall
- Helps to clarify and structure ideas
- Aids in developing higher-level thinking skills (create, analyze, evaluate)
- Helps students synthesize and integrate information, ideas and concepts
- Encourages students to think creatively about the subject
- Allows students do self-evaluation of beliefs, values, socialization, etc.
- Helps students evaluate assumptions.”<sup>1</sup>
- Learning occurs during the construction of the map
- New information can be added
- Can be used as a study tool and for self-testing (hide parts of the map with sticky notes)

Here are some additional graphic organizers to visually and conceptually organize your thoughts.<sup>2</sup>

- [Analyze](#)
- [Brainstorm](#)
- [Compare and Contrast](#)
- [Evaluate](#)
- [Hypothesize](#)
- [Interact](#)
- [Sequence](#)
- [Visualize](#)

**Resources:**

1. Concept Mapping. BYU Center for Teaching and Learning. <https://ctl.byu.edu/tip/concept-mapping>
2. WriteDesign Online: Graphic Organizers. <https://www.writedesignonline.com/organizers/>
3. Concept Mapping. Brain On! Study Smarter Not Harder. [https://www.unh.edu/sites/www.unh.edu/files/departments/center\\_for\\_academic\\_resources/concept\\_mapping\\_-\\_copy.pdf](https://www.unh.edu/sites/www.unh.edu/files/departments/center_for_academic_resources/concept_mapping_-_copy.pdf)

**Online Concept Mapping Tools:**

Bubbl.us - <https://bubbl.us/>

Gliffy — free trial available - <https://www.gliffy.com/>

Lucidchart - <https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/templates/concept-map>

Creately - <https://creately.com/blog/diagrams/ultimate-concept-map-tutorial/>

**Video Resources:**

- [Concept Maps - A Visual Study Tool](#) (3:25)
- [States of Matter Concept Map](#) (5:51)