

MARCH 2021

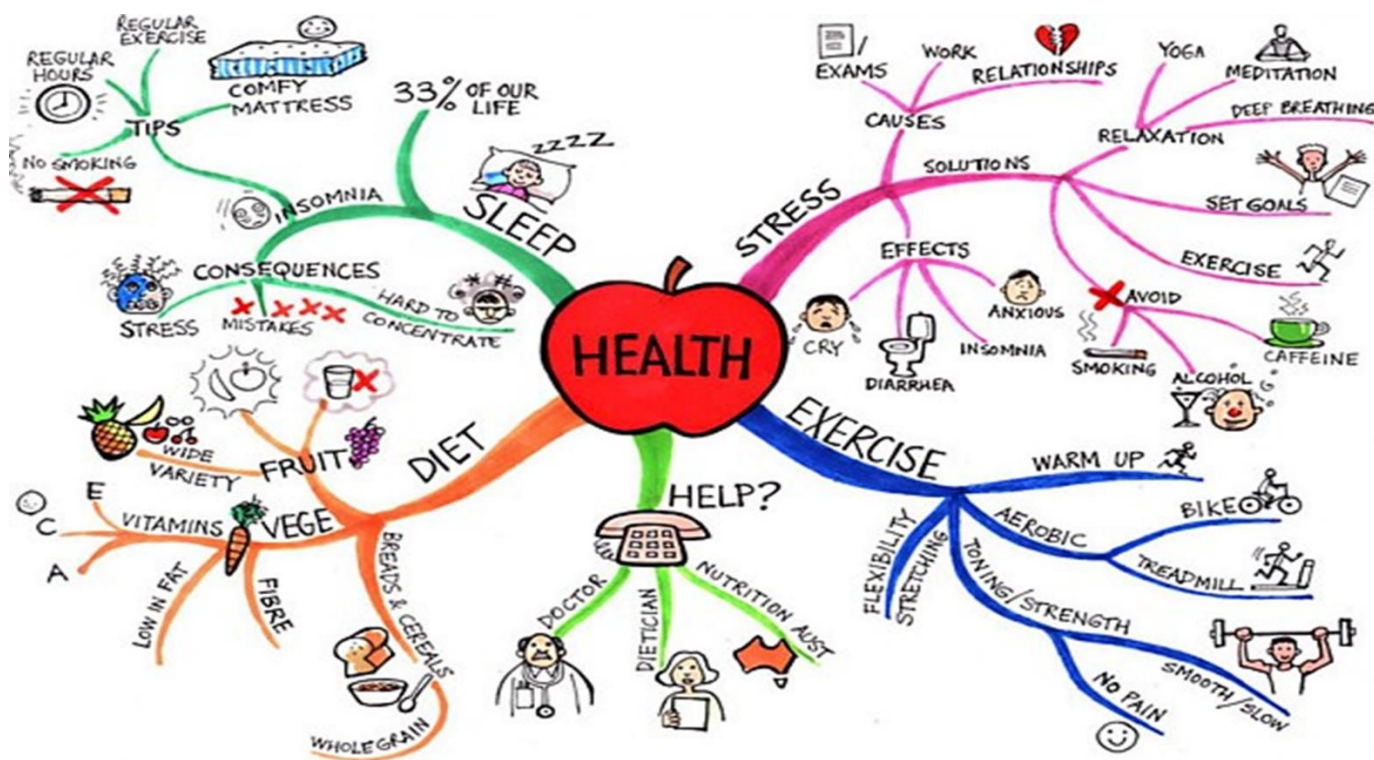
This weekly bulletin for parents and carers shares the practices that are shaping our successful journey as a school. Each week will see a different focus covering aspects such as teaching & learning, curriculum, assessment, pastoral care, attendance, careers, well-being, personal development and much more.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The phrase 'knowledge is power' is a phrase used repeatedly at our school. Students understand the importance of knowledge and how the structure of lessons supports them to 'know more and remember more'. The aim of all teachers in lesson delivery is to embed knowledge in the long term memory through various teaching strategies.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

A key resource in supporting learning are our knowledge organisers (KOs). Every student carries a KO file to each lesson. Each folder contains a separate KO for each subject which supports learning for the current topic being studied. A KO contains all of the basic facts and concepts related to a specific topic. Knowledge of any topic held in the mind is called a 'schema'. Below is an example of a schema for health



SCHEMAS


As you can see from the health schema above knowledge is held as a map in the mind. The more we know the more we are able to learn as we build on our existing knowledge map. This is because knowledge is 'sticky'. This is why KOs are so important and also why 'retrieving' information to keep it 'fresh' is so crucial to increasing the knowledge held in our students' minds.

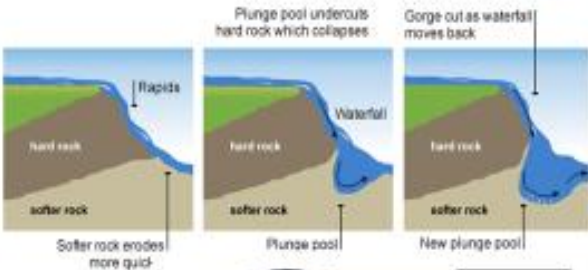
SO HOW DO KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS HELP AND HOW DO STUDENTS USE THEM?

You will see on the Y7 Geography example below that on the reverse side of each KO there are HOT and COLD questions. Often for homework we will encourage students to read their KOs and then try to answer the COLD questions. The COLD questions are easier factual recall challenges whereas the HOT questions are 'higher order thinking' questions that require students to use more complex skills such as comparing or evaluating.

Fantastic Places Knowledge Organiser

The countries and places studied in this topic include: China, India, Himalayas, Middle East, Russia, Great Barrier Reef, Victoria Falls, UK, Brazil, Peru.

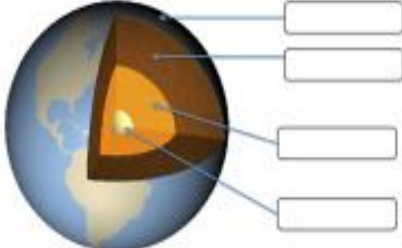
KEY TERM	MEANING	
Physical Geography	The study of the natural features of the earth e.g. volcanoes and rivers.	<p>Victoria Falls in Zambia is an erosional landform, which occurs where there is a layer of hard rock on top of a layer of softer rock. Erosional processes such as hydraulic action and abrasion occur as the river flows downstream, however differential erosion takes place as the softer rock erodes faster. Over time, the softer rock is gouged out and leaves the harder rock overhanging. The hard band of rock can no longer support itself and breaks off adding more material for erosion into the river and the plunge pool at the base of the waterfall. Material collected in the plunge pool deepens the waterfall, again through hydraulic action and abrasion. Overtime, the waterfall retreats upstream and leaves a steep sided gorge behind.</p>
Human Geography	The study of man-made features like cities, jobs and cultures.	
Environmental Geography	The study of the way humans destroy or protect the environment e.g. deforestation and air pollution	
Industry	Any business that has jobs and makes money e.g. the tourism industry	
Megacity	A city with a population of over 10 million.	
Erosion	The wearing away of rock by water or other rocks scraping and bashing.	
Tectonic Plate	A slab of the earth's crust that moves slowly on top of the mantle.	
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals interacting with their climate and soil.	<p>Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, lies on prime property right in the middle of India's financial capital, Mumbai (Bombay). It is home to more than a million people. Many are second-generation residents, whose parents moved in years ago. Today's Dharavi bears no resemblance to the fishing village it once was. A city within a city, it is one unending stretch of narrow dirty lanes, open sewers and cramped huts. In a city where house rents are among the highest in the world, Dharavi provides a cheap and affordable option to those who move to Mumbai to earn their living.</p>
BRIC	These countries will be superpowers by 2030 supplying raw materials and manufactured goods to the world.	



Softer rock erodes more quickly

Plunge pool

New plunge pool



Hawaii sits on top of a hot magma plume in the mantle. This hot spot creates a volcanic island as the Pacific plate moves over the top of this hot spot and lava escapes from vents in the crust.

The Himalayas were formed by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plate about 50 million years ago. The melting glaciers in this region provide drinking water to over one fifth of the world's population currently 7.7 billion.

PLANNED QUESTIONS

COLD Questions

- What is the global population?
- Which continent is home to India and China?
- What is a tectonic plate and which plate does Hawaii lie on?
- What does physical geography study?
- Where would you find Dharavi?
- Describe the location of Victoria Falls?
- What are the four layers of the earth?
- What is the largest river in South America?
- What is an ecosystem?
- Describe the location of the Great Barrier Reef.
- What is life like in a slum?

HOT Questions

- What are the three branches of geography?
- Explain the formation of a waterfall.
- Explain why BRIC countries will be global superpowers in the future ?
- Explain why Hawaii had to manage non-native species.
- Describe and explain the formation of the Himalayas.
- Explain why Dharavi is home to over 1 million residents.
- China has a problem with over-population. Do you agree?

A KEY LEARNING TECHNIQUE - READ, COVER, WRITE, CHECK, REPEAT

Finally, supported by research, the best way for students to independently learn and retain information is to 'read' the information, cover the document up, then write down what they can recall either by answering the COLD questions or by just trying to re-write what they have read. Then check answers, then repeat the process.

If you require any further information on knowledge organisers or teaching and learning in general then please do not hesitate to contact Mr. C. Kinsey, Deputy Headteacher on ckinsey@boteler.org.uk.