



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS: _____

Mind Mapping the Design Challenge

Objective

A mind map is a diagram that can help link concepts, questions, and ideas around a central key word or theme. In this activity, you will work with your team to create a mind map that helps you explore the design challenge topic and begin to identify a problem or issue to focus on for your project.

Guidelines

1. Break into your design team and get a large piece of paper and markers. This paper will serve as the backdrop for your mind map.
2. Write the Capstone topic at the center of your mind map.
3. Use connecting lines to link ideas, concepts, and other items related to the central topic. Keep your mind map clear by using a radial hierarchy to build branches of thought out from the central topic.
4. The following are some tips for creating an effective mind map:
 - Use images, symbols, or color-coding.
 - Make key words stand out by using uppercase letters.
 - Use arrows, bold text, or other techniques to emphasize key points and associations.
 - Develop your own group style—be creative!
5. These questions may help you frame the challenge:
 - Who and/or what is impacted by this challenge, and how? (stakeholders, communities, the environment, etc.)
 - What smaller problems make up this challenge?
 - What are the cause-and-effect relationships?
 - What do we already know about this challenge?
 - What do we need to know more about to address this challenge?



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Sample Mind Map

The following is one example of a mind map that helped a team think about a design challenge on the topic of climate change.

