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Mind Maps Reveal Student Thinking

Summary of Eugenio-Gozalbo et al. (2025)

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Academic Insights

Understanding what students truly know can be challenging. This study explored how mind maps can reveal students' understanding of plants and their ecological importance.

Pre-service teachers participated in a learning program combining garden experiences, scientific observation, and botanical drawing. By analyzing students' mind maps, researchers discovered significant improvements in plant knowledge, conceptual connections, and appreciation of plant life.

Mind maps proved to be more than a creative activity—they became a powerful tool for assessing understanding and encouraging students to organize knowledge visually.

Apply This Now

Ask students to create mind maps after completing a topic to summarize key ideas.

Add This in Your Lesson

Encourage students to combine words, diagrams, and arrows to show connections between concepts.

Avoid This Mistake

Do not limit assessment to tests alone—visual thinking tools reveal deeper understanding.

Keywords

mind maps, plant awareness, science education, visual learning, conceptual connections

Reference

Eugenio-Gozalbo, M., Ortega-Cubero, I., & Suárez-López, R. (2025). Mind maps for eliciting and assessing plant awareness: A preliminary study on pre-service teachers. *Plants, People, Planet*, 7, 1043–1054.
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