



St Matthew's Academy Library Helpsheets

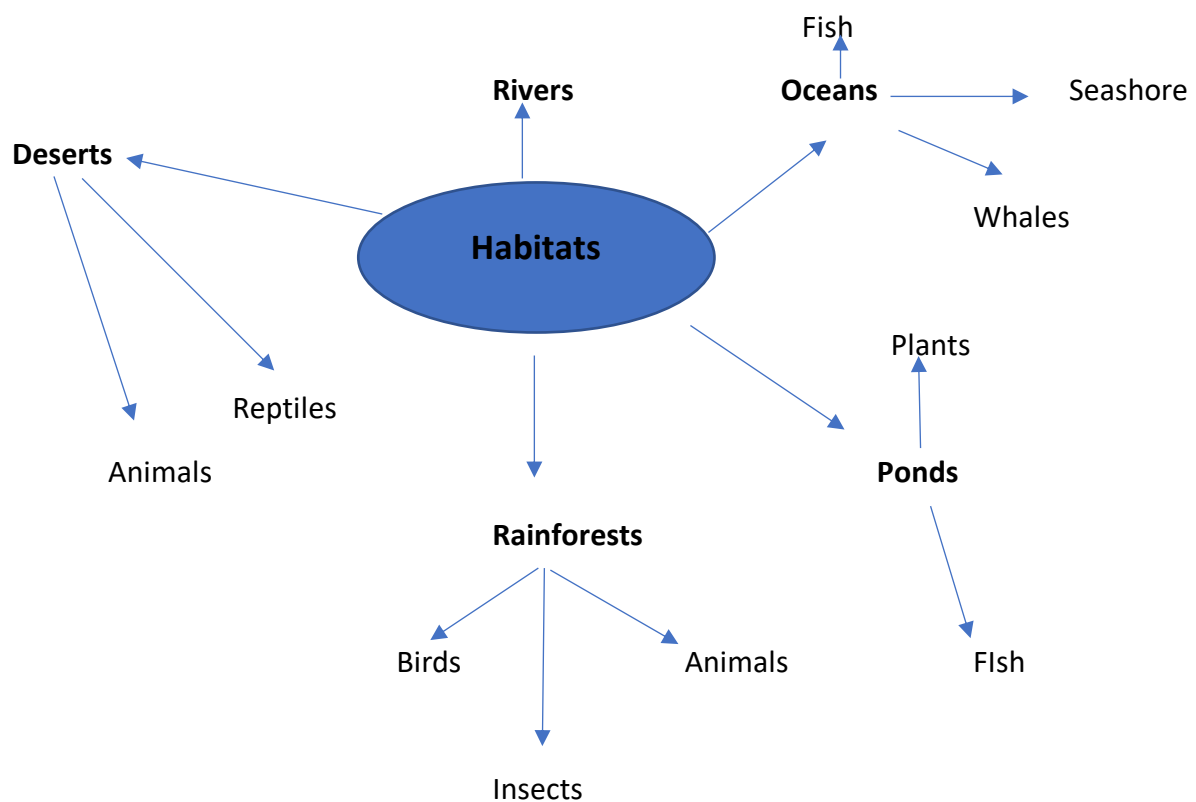
Planning Your Research

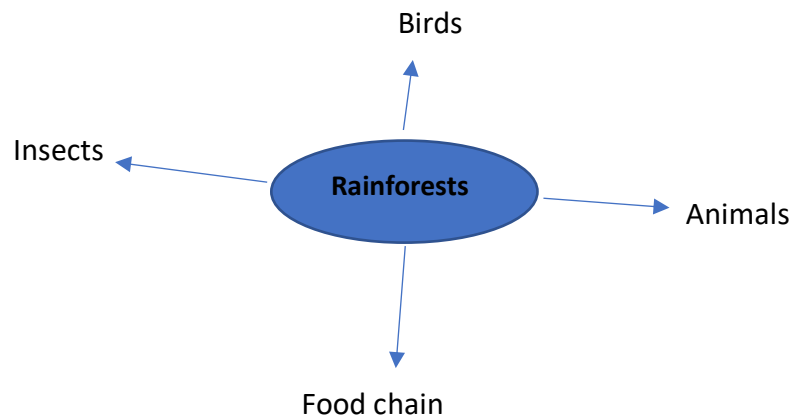
It is not a good idea to start collecting information until you have a clear idea about what you are looking for.

Sometimes you may not know anything about your topic at all. Often you know something about your topic and want to know more. We learn best when build on things we already know.

Brainstorming is a popular way of working out what you already know about a topic and what you want to find out. It involves thinking of words you might associate with a topic.

For example, if you are going to research **Habitats** you could create a spider diagram (mind map) of all the words you come up with when you brainstorm the topic. You can also add things that you would like to find out about.





You now have **keywords** for your topic. **Keywords** are the words that are important to your topic. Having a list of them should help you be more specific in your search and hopefully stop you from getting information that is irrelevant.

It can be useful to turn them into questions which should help you search for information more effectively

e.g How do insects in the rainforest survive? Which reptiles live in the rainforest? What does the rainforest's food chain look like? How many different kinds of birds are found in the rainforest?

Knowing what you're looking for before you start your research should make your task quicker and more effective.