

Sample Mind Map

For your mind map, take one of your ideas and brainstorm. Do not think too much about what you are going to write. The point of the mind map is to think in a non-linear way. At this point, there is nothing more than thinking connecting ideas to your piece of historical fiction.

How to mind map: Using an unlined piece of paper, work quickly without pausing, judging or editing. If you pause, judge or edit, you're encouraging linear thinking and analysis-paralysis and the idea that things have to be perfect before you can begin. The idea behind the mind map is to think creatively in a non-linear manner.

Using the unlined piece of paper, start with the title of the Historical Theme in the center. Then around the center write down: a character, a location, a keyword(s), period in history, and anything else you want to brainstorm about. Then list five words/or phrases underneath each idea. Using this visual method helps you understand and remember better, be open to possibilities, and avoid the restrictions of an outline or list format.

Later on you can modify the information, but first just get every possibility into the mind map. Once you've got the central idea down in the middle, use lines, colors, arrows, or branches to complete the idea. You'll see how freeing it is not to have to worry about the ?order? they're in.

After all, when you're working on a resolution, you'll most likely be working on several things at the same time. The mind map helps you avoid that paralyzing thought of where to begin. Begin anywhere; the point is to begin.

Turn your piece of paper landscape style. This gives you the maximum amount of room to work with. Leave lots of space so you can go back and add to them. You may want to highlight something, add information or questions later on.