

Fifteen Tools for Creating Mind Maps and Concept Maps

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GitMind

[GitMind](#) is a mind mapping tool that offers some excellent features for teachers and students. GitMind offers [more than one hundred templates](#) for teachers and students to use and modify. Some of the templates you'll find in the gallery include essay structure, timelines, book reviews, and study plans. GitMind also lets you create your mind maps and flowcharts from scratch. [Here's my video overview](#) of Gitmind.

Forky

[Forky](#) is a mind mapping tool that fits into the category of *simple but effective*. Forky is a free mind mapping tool that focuses on just connecting text boxes. As you'll see in [this video](#), all that you have to do to make a mind map with Forky is to double-click on the screen then start typing in the text box that appears when you double-click. To add a new connected idea just hit the tab key on your keyboard and a new text box appears for you to type in. If you want to create a new text box that isn't connected to a previous one, just double-click somewhere else on your screen. You can make connections between boxes after they're written by simply holding the shift key while clicking on one box then another.

Forky doesn't include support for inserting images, video, or any other media. It's just for writing a series of connected ideas. You can invite other people to view your Forky mind maps via email. Here's my [complete video overview of Forky](#).

Whimsical

[Whimsical](#) is a good tool for creating flowcharts, mind maps, Venn diagrams, and a variety of other charts and diagrams. As we've come to expect with any tool like it, Whimsical is a collaborative tool. You can invite people to collaborate with you to edit your work or to simply comment on it to provide feedback. Charts and diagrams created on Whimsical can be published as simple websites, kept private, or exported as a PNG (image file) or as a PDF.

To create a flowchart or mind map on [Whimsical](#) you can start with a template or create from scratch. Either way you can customize every element of your chart by using the editing tools that appear on the left-hand side of the Whimsical editor. You can quickly select shapes and lines to connect in your diagram. Text can be written on any shape that you add to your diagram. And you can even add emojis into the shapes that you use in your diagram.

Transno

[Transno](#) is a service that lets you write notes and outlines that can then be turned into mind maps and flowcharts with just one click. It reminds me a lot of the old Text2MindMap service that I used to use. [Transno](#) is better because it offers a variety of mind maps and flowchart styles while Text2MindMap only offered one. Transno also supports collaboration by letting you invite others to edit and add to your notes. In the [following video](#) I demonstrate how [Transno](#) works.

Google Slides & PowerPoint

If your students have a computer in front of them, they probably have access to either Google Slides or PowerPoint or both. Google Slides and PowerPoint have built-in tools that students can use to create flowcharts. [This video](#) demonstrates how students can use Google Slides to create flowcharts. [This video](#) demonstrates how students can use PowerPoint to create flowcharts. As you'll see in the videos, you can make the flowcharts interactive through the use of linking in PowerPoint and Google Slides.

Bubbl.us

[Bubbl.us](#) is a mind mapping and flowchart tool that I've been recommending for more than a decade. It has evolved overtime to keep up with the needs of students, teachers, and other users. Creating mind maps on Bubbl.us is an easy process of simply clicking on the center of your screen then entering the central topic of your mind map. The next step is to add "child" topics or bubbles that are connected to the central topic. Those are added by clicking the "+" that appears while holding your cursor over an existing bubble.

Padlet

[Padlet](#) offers a format called "canvas" that you can use to create multimedia mind maps and flowcharts. Unfortunately, you can only make three Padlet walls before you have to either delete one to make a new one or upgrade to a paid plan. The upside to using Padlet is that it's designed for collaboration. [This video](#) demonstrates how it works.

Text2MindMap

This is a mind mapping tool that was a commercial project for a few years before going out of business then coming back as an open-source project supported by Tobias Løfgren. The way that it works is that you type a linear outline and Text2MindMap will automatically generate a corresponding mind map. To use it simply [go here](#), clear the

existing text and replace it with your own text. Every line that you type in your outline becomes a node in the mind map. You can create a branch from a node by simply indenting a line in your outline.

Post-it App for Android and iOS

The Post-it mobile apps for Android and iOS let you take a picture of physical sticky notes and then sort them on a digital canvas.

MindMup

[MindMup](#) is a mind mapping tool that can be used online, with Google Drive, and on your desktop. MindMup works like most mind mapping tools in that you can create a central idea and add child and sibling nodes all over a blank canvas. MindMup nodes can contain text and links. When you're ready to save your [MindMup](#) mind map you can save it to Google Drive, save it to your desktop, or publish it online. If you publish it online, you can grab an embed code for it to post it in a blog post or webpage.

Coggle

[Coggle](#) is a collaborative mind-mapping service that is very easy to use. To create a [Coggle](#) mind map just sign-in with your Google account and click the "+" icon to start your mind map. After entering the main idea of your mind map you can add branches by clicking the "+" icons that appear next to everything you type. To re-arrange elements just click on them and drag them around your screen. [Coggle](#) is a collaborative tool. You can invite others to view and edit your mind maps.

Google Drawings and Google Jamboard

Both of these free Google tools can be used to create mind maps and flowcharts. Google Drawings has more features than Jamboard. The upside of Jamboard is that it's probably a more intuitive tool for new users. [Watch this video](#) to learn how to use Google Drawings and [watch this one](#) to learn how to use Google Jamboard.

SpiderScribe

[Spider Scribe](#) is an online mind map creation service. Spider Scribe can be used individually or be used collaboratively. What jumps out about SpiderScribe is that users can add images, maps, calendars, text notes, and uploaded text files to their mind maps. Users can connect the elements on their mind maps or let them each stand on their own. You can embed your interactive SpiderScribe mind map into your blog or website.