

What to do when half the class is missing... use a Mind Map!

Background

It seemed unfair to proceed to new material when students were away on 'school business' e.g. a match.
 Could I find a teaching strategy to allow those present to continue learning and also be of benefit to those absent?

Aim

To make better use of students' time when a significant number of the class is absent

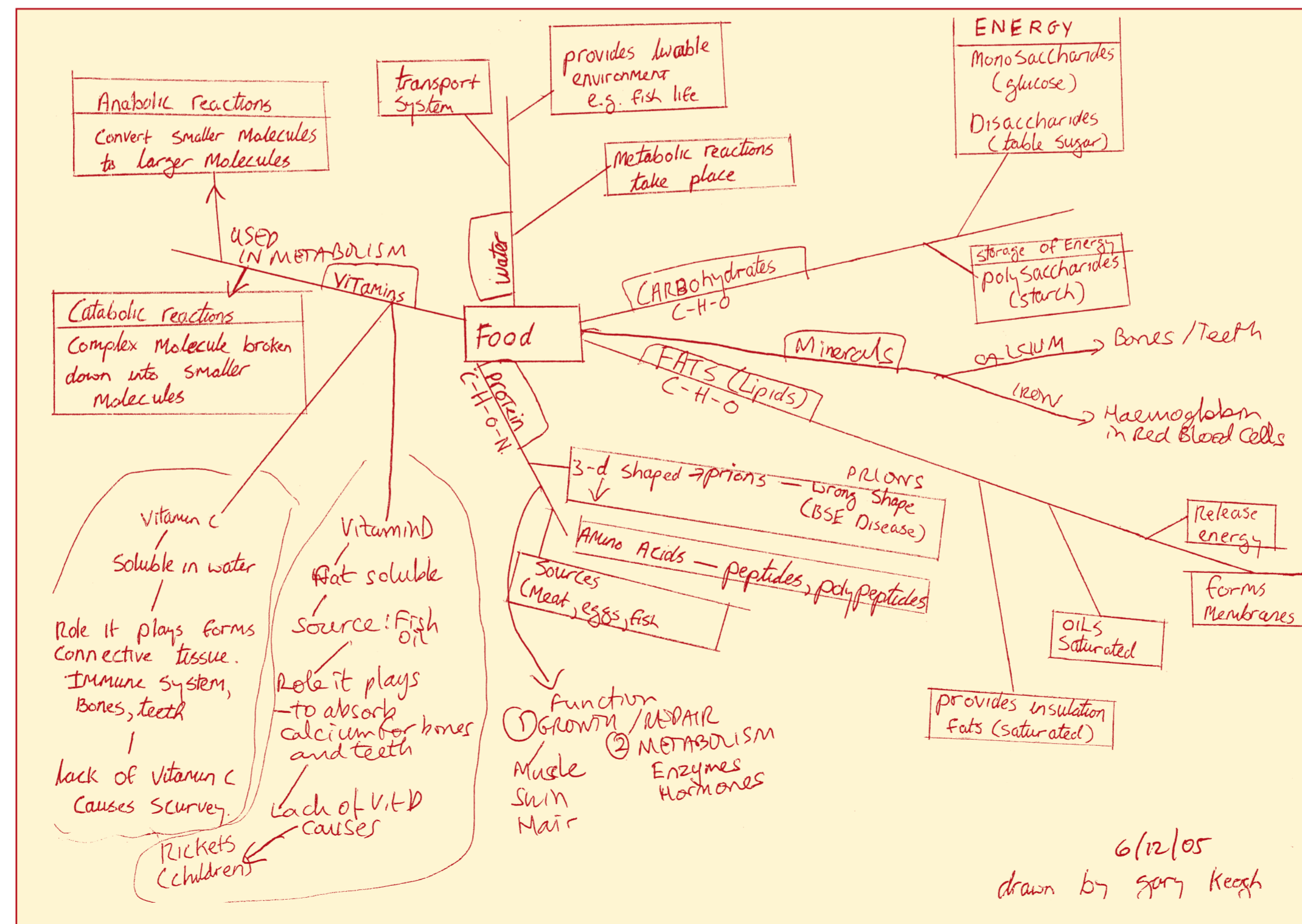
Method

1. Students present construct a Mind Map to revise a selected topic.
2. Mind Map copied and distributed to all the class.
3. Students who had been present explain the mind map to the absentees.

Findings

- Universal approval for the strategy amongst the students.
- Class time used for revision rather than advancing the syllabus.
- Overall positive benefits seem to outweigh any negative effects.

Sample Mind Map



Student Benefits

For those present:

- A better way to revise than just revising by themselves.
- Opportunities for a variety of learning experiences such as group work, presenting information and peer teaching.

For those absent:

- They feel that they are not 'losing out' completely on class time.
- Do not miss any new material.
- Have a tangible record of what was studied in their absence.

Future Research Question

- How can I formulate a means of analysing any improvement in learning?