InstaGrok Search Essay

The benefits of using Mindtools are easy to use, help memory, and improves comprehension and retention of the subject matter (Jonassen, 113). I chose to use Instagrok. I really liked the green box that appeared. The box contained different pieces of information about the topic such as key facts, websites, videos, images, and concepts (or terms). Words describing water cycle were not the only thing that was in the concept map. There was an image and video as well. I especially liked the scale of the degree of difficulty. It would be a great way to differentiate with students. Various sites took me to educational links where students were able to find information, videos and charts about the topic they can apply. The video given in my concept map was informative and short and to the point.

The Internet is full of information. Finding the specific information you want or need can be another avenue. Surfing the Internet is looking for ideas. Trial and error comes into play when looking at sites to find the information you want. Searching the Internet has something specific in mind with what you are looking at that is relevant to your task.. Using InstaGrok was really easy and fast. While creating my concept maps I was able to find specific information about each of my topics.   While searching for information about my topics on Google search, general information was given and I had to click on each link to find out more. One piece that both InstaGrok and Google shared as I searched about the water cycle included images, terms, and links.

I was able to learn something new as I found information about runoff from InstaGrok that I would not have found as easily with a Google search. One of the nodes from InstaGrok was Maryland. I thought that was quite odd to have a U.S. State in the

results so I clicked on the node to find out more. I found that the state of Maryland "cautions people not to swim in the waterways 48 hours after a heavy rainstorm due to run off" (see picture below). There was a link provided about the information and I was able to find out more information.

From my own curiosity, I found out more about what runoff was and the effect it can have in Maryland and why it is important in the water cycle. My learning and knowledge increased by using this mindtool. Joanne said it best when he says, "learning with Mindtools requires learners to think harder about the subject-matter domain being studied than they would have to think without Mindtools" (Jonassen, 21)

Using Mindtools allows students to research more easily and quickly concerning a particular topic without having to spend extra time looking for information that could prove useless. Mindtools not only saves you time but also helps learners grow.

References

Jonassen, D. (2006). *Modeling with Mindtools: Mindtools for Conceptual Change.* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.