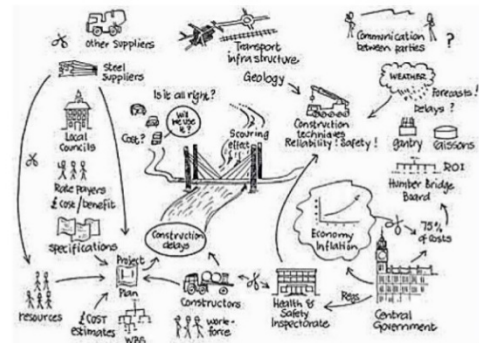


Having Great Conversations - Rich Pictures

Rich Pictures

See also, Open University resources: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/engineering-technology/the-art-rich-pictures>

Rich Pictures is a term used to describe a means of communicating, expressing and discussing complex ideas through images. The concept has evolved over thousands of years. They can be seen on ancient cave walls, are used in therapy and they 'talk' to us in a globally understood language. Think of Rich Pictures as Brainstorming with pictures instead of words.



Rich picture of the construction of the Humber Bridge (adapted from Stewart and Fortune, 1994)

1. Set out your ground-rules e.g. everyone has to draw at least one thing, there are no judgements about what or how you draw!
2. Put a large sheet(s) of paper in the middle of the table and pose your question.
3. Everyone grabs a 'pen of power' and starts drawing their ideas and thoughts. People can be reluctant ("I can't draw") so be prepared to be the one to start!
4. Have some fun! People will often start off reluctantly but gather pace if they are given enough time and encouragement.
5. When the drawings are all done, step back and ask questions or invite people to explain what they have drawn.
6. Now you can start to evaluate any potential solutions or issues raised.

Advantages of Rich Pictures

- Pictures transcend words, "a picture speaks a thousand words".
- Pictures can convey complex thoughts and emotions, very quickly.
- Pictures can help break down barriers e.g. language, cultural etc.
- The majority of people are 'visual thinkers' so relate to pictures easily.
- It's easy to link ideas and concepts, and demonstrate relationships with pictures.
- Rich Pictures can be highly collaborative and fun!

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