A case study in collaborative mind-mapping with LucidChart

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Classroom context

Course: 3rd Year Environmental Change

- Lesson: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
- 21 bright and engaged students with own wireless devices

Learning Objectives

- Differentiate between mitigation and adaptation
- Identify & explain 2 examples of mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Explain 2 personal choices that could be considered mitigation strategies.

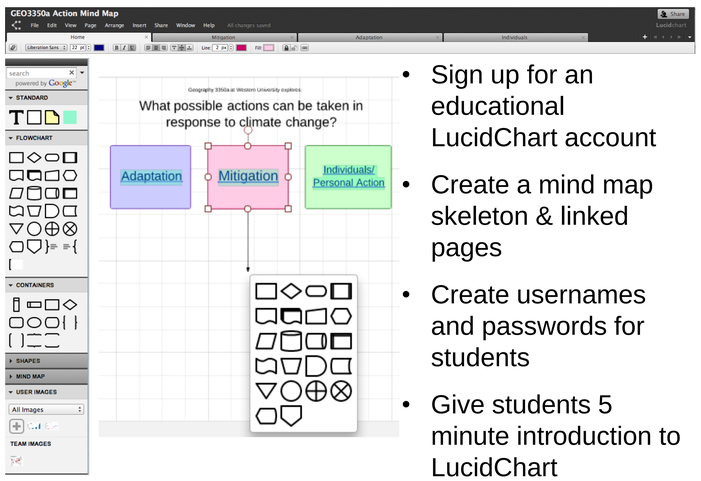
Problems with lecture-based lesson:

- Instructor-centred explanation is boring.
- Learners are capable of choosing which topics are discussion-worthy mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Students can access the most updated information on the constantly changing topics

Solution:

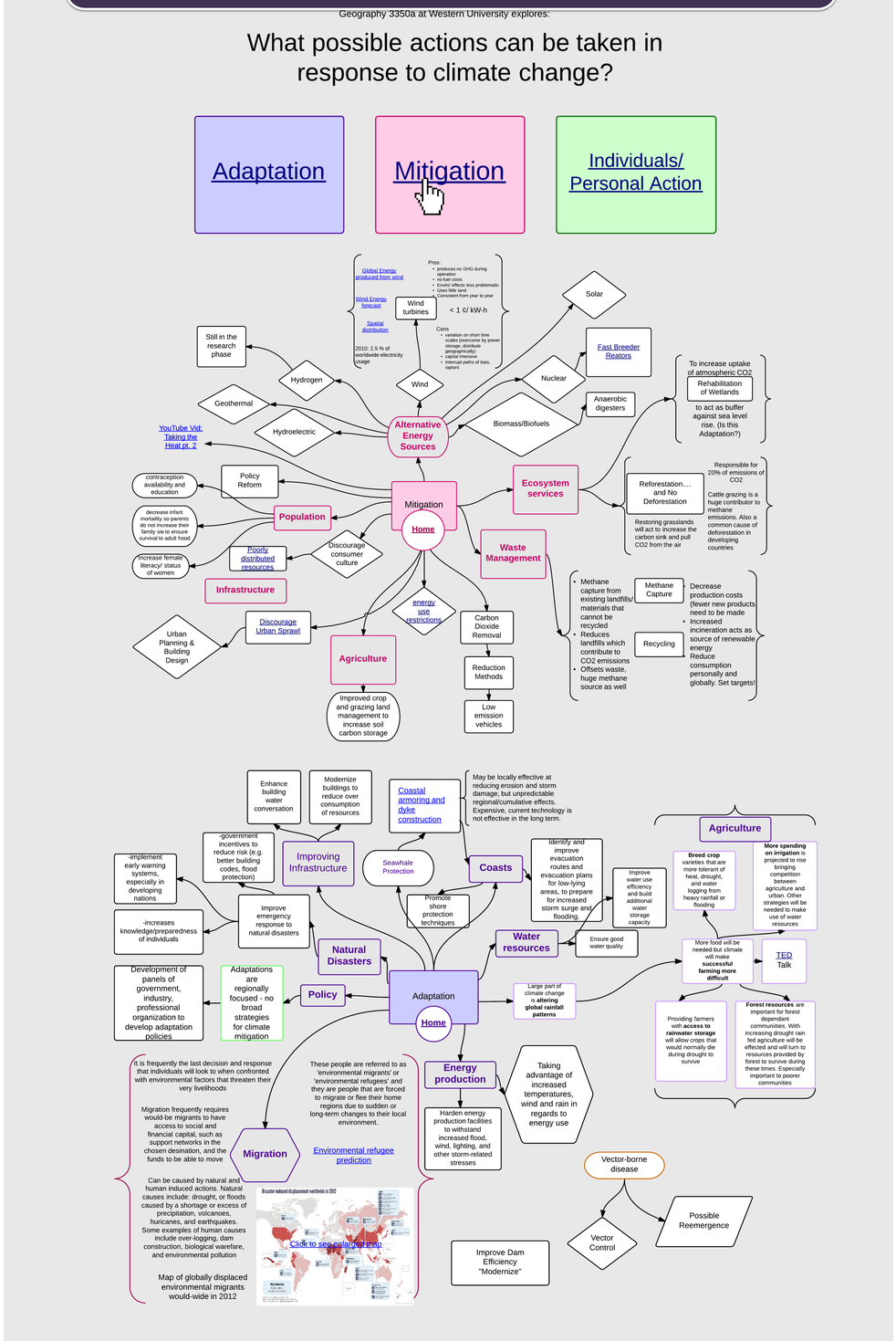
- Collaborative mind-mapping activity to be completed in 2 hour class using LucidChart

Using LucidChart



- Sign up for an educational LucidChart account
- Create a mind map skeleton & linked pages
- Create usernames and passwords for students
- Give students 5 minute introduction to LucidChart

Climate Action Mind Map



LucidChart Evaluated

Benefits of LucidChart mind-mapping

- Web-based
- Intuitive program allows students to focus on lesson-material and brainstorming rather than on learning new program
- Multiple users edit and add to mind-map simultaneously

Student says:
"I… liked the ease of which you could insert images and videos the mind-map."

Student says:
"It was cool being able to add on to other people's ideas from where we were sitting and all interactively participate."

Benefits of collaborative mindmapping

- Students worked independently and focus on own interests
- Students see work of their classmates in real time
- The mind-map is a group effort, dependent on the input of each participants.
- Output is organic and easily manipulated. Students can adjust the position or branch off of their class-mates work.

Student says:
"It enables students to actually collaborate together ... This allows for brainstorming and positive interactions between people and also for more opportunities for learning."

Drawbacks of LucidChart

- Website fritzing with many users at once
- Takes time to add users to educational account

Student says:
"Sometimes it was a bit finicky and lagged with adding some information so sometimes someone would add something you were already in the process of adding without actually seeing it until they were completely done. "

Student says:
"… the time it takes to learn… is much better spent just learning and interacting by talking aloud to each other and writing things down with … a huge piece of paper and lots of markers."

Summary

- The students generally seemed to enjoy using LucidChart and did a remarkable job brainstorming and connecting ideas
- The tool is likely most powerful as a tool used remotely, e.g. with online learning, as there were technical difficulties associated with 21 people mind-mapping simultaneously.
- Similar group activities could be effectively used as assessments in online courses.