The Big Picture

Revision should start at the beginning of a topic, not near the end. By then, it’s too late.

When students are given the Big Picture, they have a framework on to which they can hook details. Without these hooks, much is forgotten.

All new information then ‘sticks’ to these hooks.

WORKING WITH THE JIGSAW COVER
Would you do a jigsaw without looking at the front cover? No, it would be too difficult.

It’s like that for students without a Big Picture of future learning.

CHUNKING TO AVOID OVERLOAD
We can only take in so much in at any one time. That’s around 7 chunks. But rather less for most of us.

Big Pictures do the chunking for students.

EXPERT VERSUS NOVICE LEARNERS
Novice learners soon drown with new information. And remember very little.

Expert learners explore the structure of the information. They search for the main ideas. All new information then sticks to these hooks.

MAP OUT THE TOPIC
Create a master map for you only. Such a complex map can cause map shock in your students.

GIVE THE BIG PICTURE
Present the topic with a simple map that covers only the main points.

ATTACH THE DETAILS
Build new maps as you study the topic. Refer these to the original Big Picture map.

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