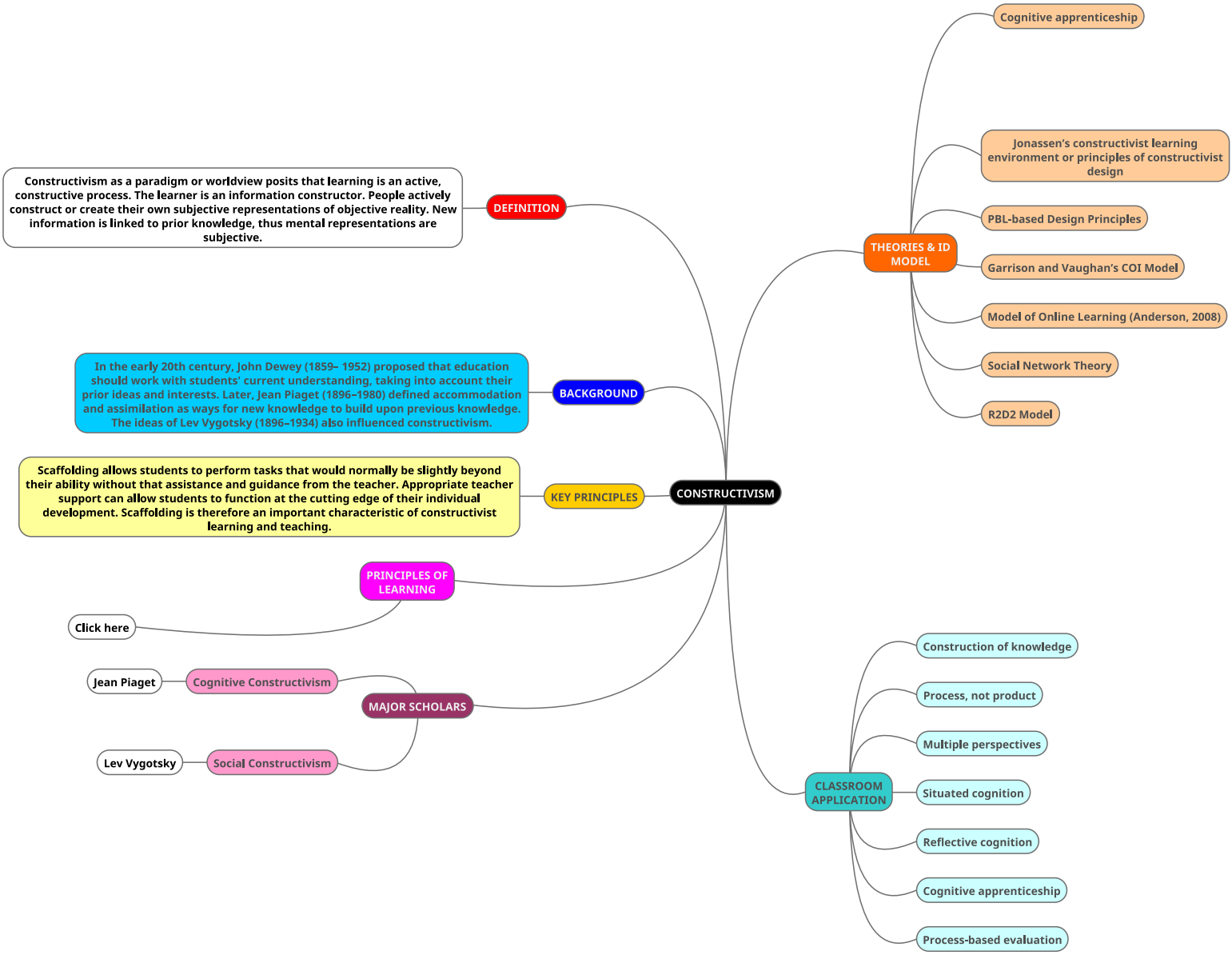
CONSTRUCTIVISM
DEFINITION
Constructivism as a paradigm or worldview posits that learning is an active, constructive process. The learner is an information constructor. People actively construct or create their own subjective representations of objective reality. New information is linked to prior knowledge, thus mental representations are subjective.
BACKGROUND
In the early 20th century, John Dewey (1859– 1952) proposed that education should work with students' current understanding, taking into account their prior ideas and interests. Later, Jean Piaget (1896–1980) defined accommodation and assimilation as ways for new knowledge to build upon previous knowledge. The ideas of Lev Vygotsky (1896–1934) also influenced constructivism.
KEY PRINCIPLES
Scaffolding allows students to perform tasks that would normally be slightly beyond their ability without that assistance and guidance from the teacher. Appropriate teacher support can allow students to function at the cutting edge of their individual development. Scaffolding is therefore an important characteristic of constructivist learning and teaching.
PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING
Click here
MAJOR SCHOLARS
Cognitive Constructivism
Jean Piaget
Social Constructivism
Lev Vygotsky
THEORIES & ID MODEL
Cognitive apprenticeship
Jonassen's constructivist learning environment or principles of constructivist design
PBL-based Design Principles
Garrison and Vaughan's COI Model
Model of Online Learning (Anderson, 2008)
Social Network Theory
R2D2 Model
CLASSROOM APPLICATION
Construction of knowledge
Process, not product
Multiple perspectives
Situated cognition
Reflective cognition
Cognitive apprenticeship
Process-based evaluation