Benefits & Challenges using CON STRUCT IVISM in Learning



CONSTRUCTIVISM

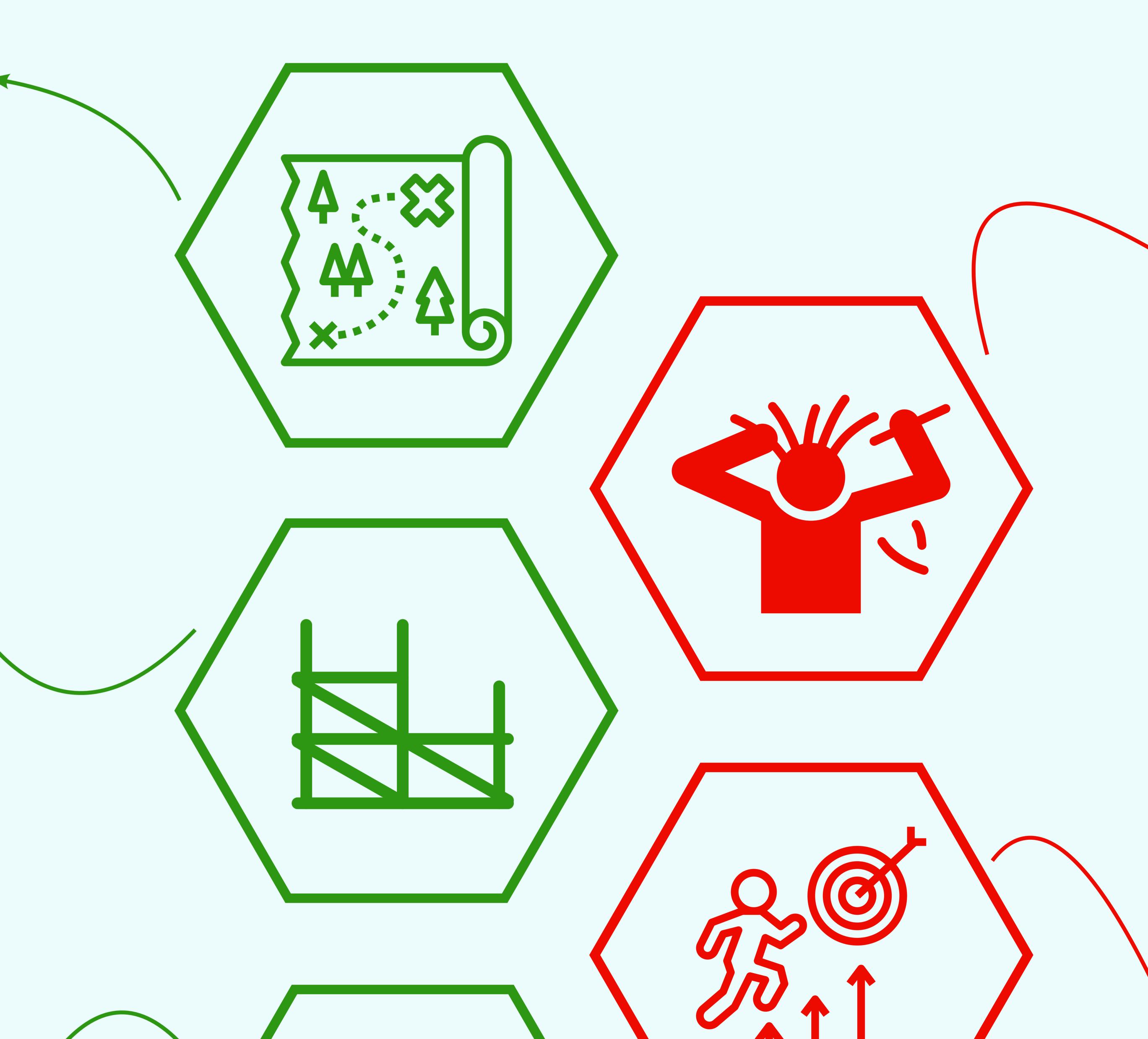
Students shape their own learning journey through exploration, questioning and problem-solving. Students are actively engaged in the learning process.

SCAFFOLDING

Jerome Bruner (1978)
developed the theory that
students build on prior
knowledge in an effort to
lessen their reliance on help
from the instructor. As the
student's understanding
increases, the instructor
removes the supporting
structures in the learning
process.

SOCIAL

Jean-Jacques Piaget (1964) discoverd that students' experiences can affect their learning. Students are encouraged to construct knowledge by harnessing the power of collaboration with others. Social interactions form the basis of knowledge exploration and construction.



ZPD

Lev Vygotsky's (1978) Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) are challenging tasks given to the student that push the boundaries of their abilities and allow them to grow. This requires a balanced approach as there is a risk of frustrating the student if the learning tasks are too difficult.

MOTIVATION

Unlike Behaviorism,
Constructivism relies heavily on
the intrinsic motivation of the
learner. This can be very useful
when working with students
that seek control over their
learning journey. However,
other students that aren't as
motivated may struggle to
engage.

SUMMARY

Constructivism presents many benefits for harnessing the power of learning in a group environment, especially in a virtual learning format. The Social Constructivism and Zone of Proximal Development theories complement each other and could work well when challenging tasks are given to a group instead of an individual. The social pressures of supporting the group could cancel out the risks of a lack of intrinsic motivations of the individual.

Mcleod, S. (1970, January 1). Bruner - Learning Theory in Education. Bruner - Learning Theory in Education | Simply Psychology. https://www.simplypsychology.org/bruner.html.

Becoming a Better University Teacher. UCD OER wiki. (n.d.). http://www.ucdoer.ie/index.php/Education_Theory/Constructivism_and_Social_Constructivism_in_the_Classroom.