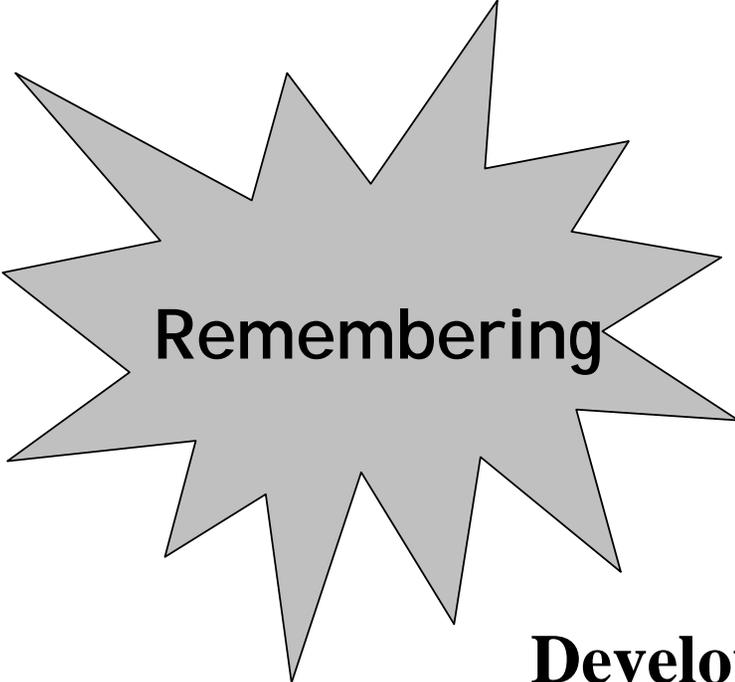# Thinking about Thinking! Developing Your Skills
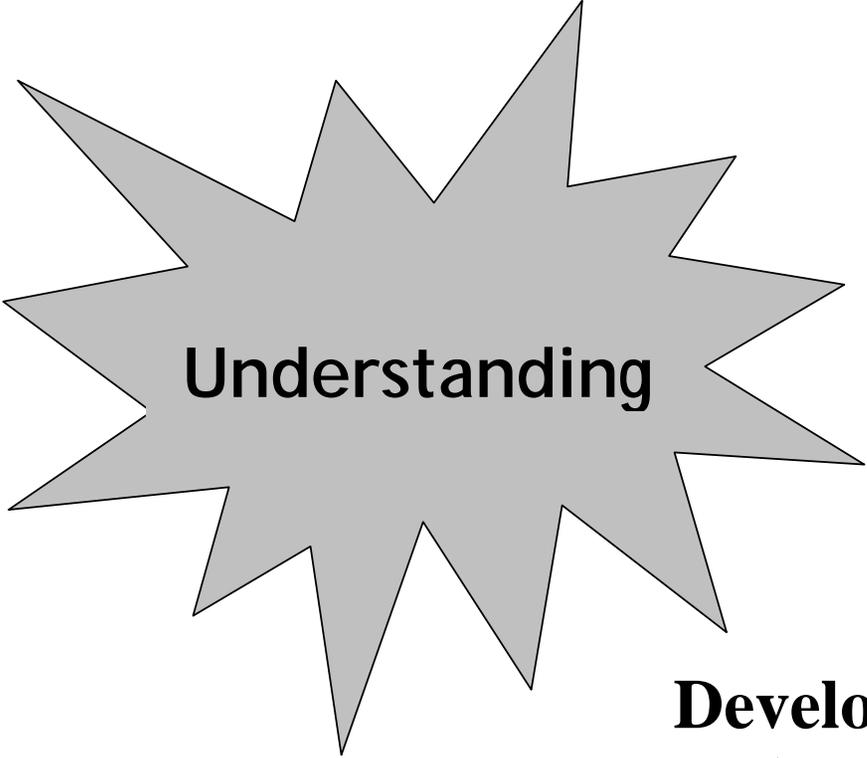
Remembering

What is it?
Getting your facts right!

Remembering is the first stage in the thinking process.

It involves making a list, describing, telling, finding and naming.

Develops when you:
- list the main events in the story or article
- make a wall chart of key facts
- learn a poem or short written passage to read aloud
- watch a video and write down all the things you can remember
- make a true/false quiz about the information in an article or story you have read
- recite something off by heart
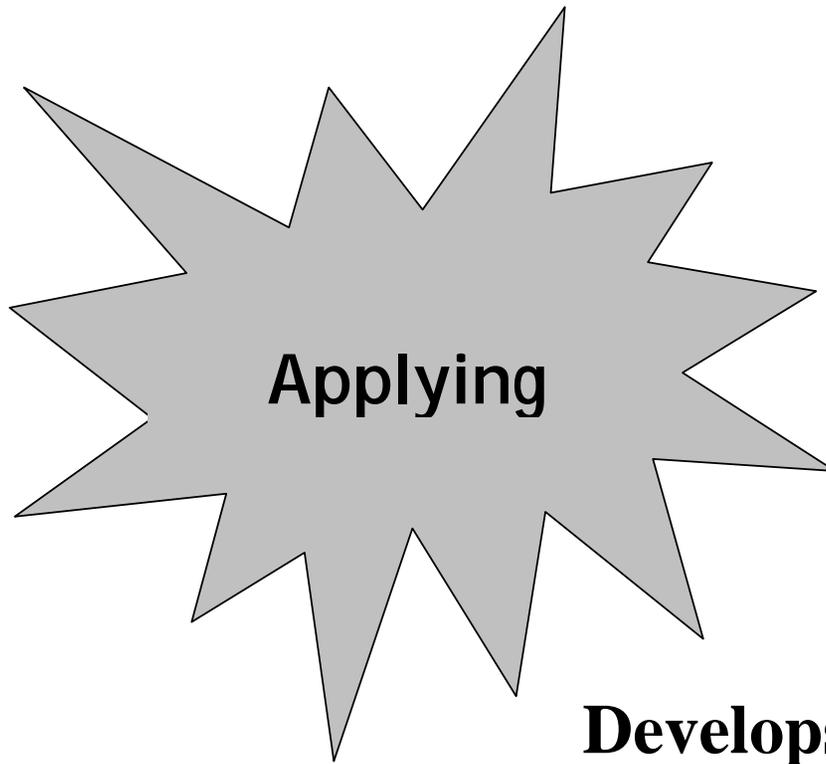
Understanding

What is it?
Explaining what the information means!

This is where you show that you have remembered things that you researched and that the information makes sense to you.

Develops when you:
- write a brief outline of information you have read
- make predictions about what might happen next in a particular situation
- draw diagrams or cartoons or design flow charts to show the sequence of events
- identify or describe the main idea in a passage of information
- retell a story in your own words
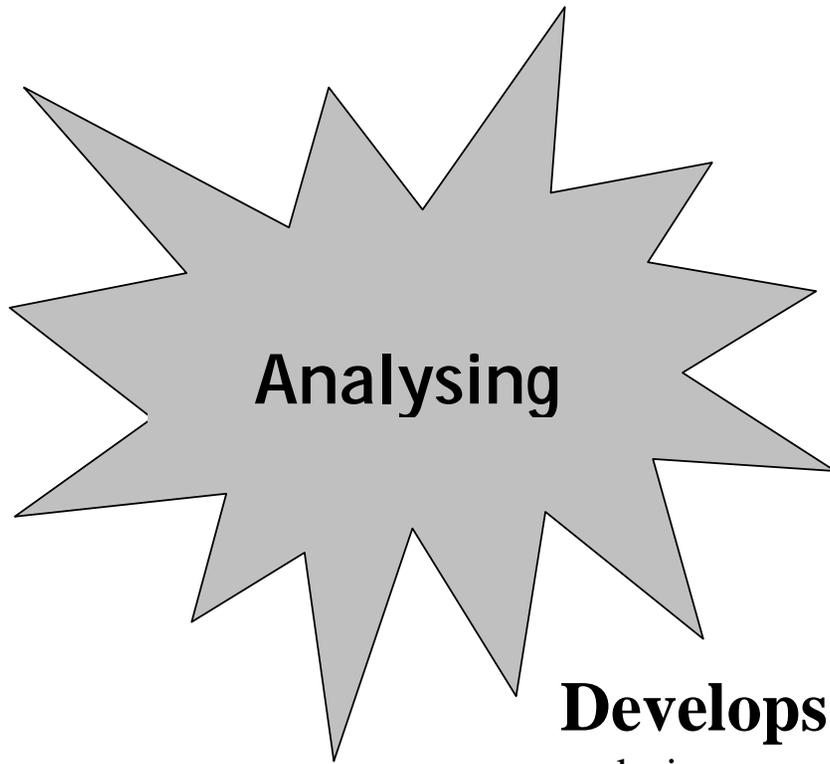- create a dictionary or glossary to define key ideas

Applying

What is it?
Making good use of your knowledge!

This is when you use your knowledge in a new situation.

Develops when you:

- use your knowledge to solve a problem
- construct a model to demonstrate how something works
- describe a situation which is similar to something you have learned about
- design a marketing promotion for a product you have developed based on a TV campaign you have seen
- design a board game using ideas which relate to the topic you are studying
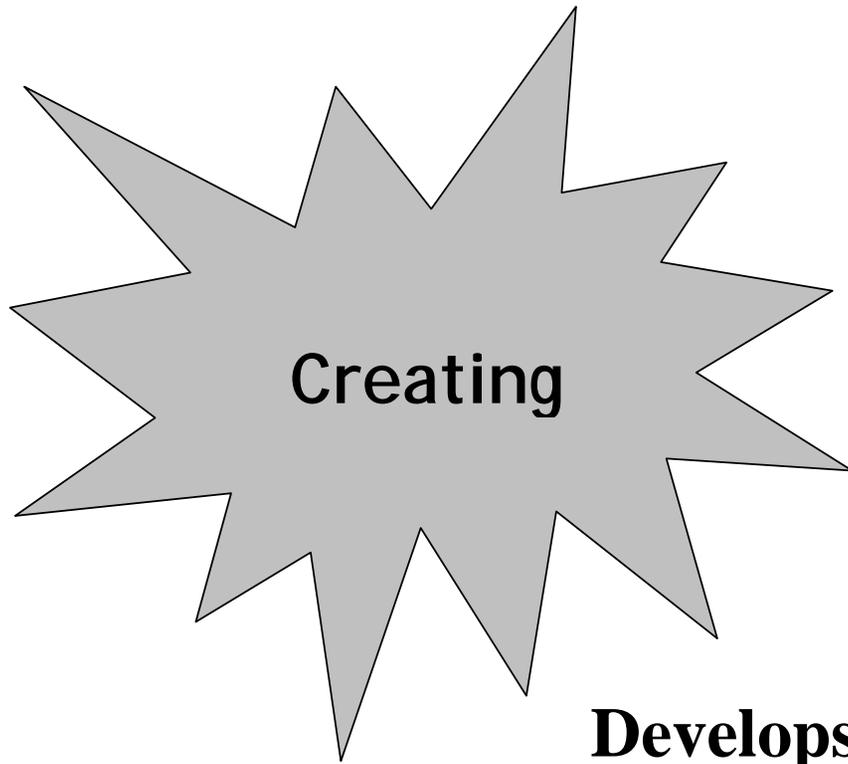
Analysing

What is it?
Breaking things down!

This type of thinking that is needed when you investigate a situation to try to find out exactly what is going on.

It involves experimenting, graphing, comparing, contrasting, categorising, investigating, researching, examining and explaining.

Develops when you:
- design a questionnaire to gather information
- construct a graph to present the findings from a survey you have carried out
- identify and discuss the underlying theme running through a collection of fairytales
- investigate to determine whether the school should close on the APEC meeting day
- write a biography of an Antarctic explorer highlighting their key achievements
- construct a family tree to show who is who in your family
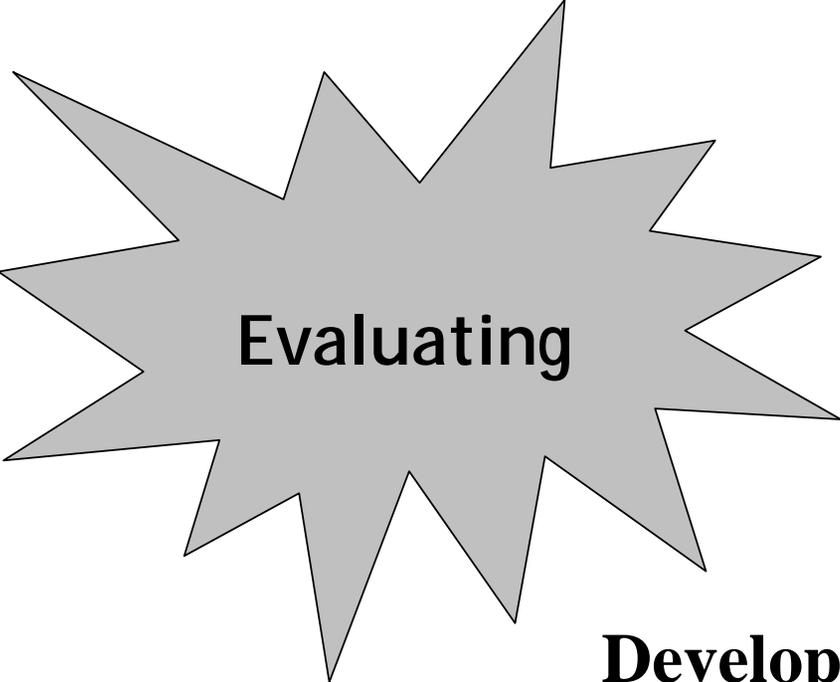
Creating

What is it?
Producing something new!

This is where you combine existing ideas and knowledge to create something interesting and new.

It involves planning, producing, inventing, composing, constructing and designing.

Develops when you:
- invent a machine to carry out a specific task
- create a new product. Give it a name and plan a marketing campaign
- design a disk cover for a multimedia CD-ROM you have created
- invent a secret code
- write a new set of lyrics for a well-known tune
- devise a solution to a difficult problem
- compose a rap to convey an important message
- create an imaginary environment and design a creature that has special adaptations to enable it to survive

Evaluating

What is it?
Judging the outcome!

This is when you develop reasons to support your decisions or choices.

It involves judging, choosing, deciding, debating, recommending, justifying, prioritising and assessing.

Develops when you:

- make a decision about whether something is good or bad
- look at whether or not a situation has been handled effectively and debate ideas to provide different solutions for your situation
- make a prioritised list. An example of this is to make an illustrated booklet that explains the five school rules which you think are the most important
- identify modifications which could be made to a model you have designed to improve its performance
- write a letter to the council explaining why you think the speed limit on a particular road in your area should be reduced
- argue the case for abolishing school uniforms
- prepare a list of criteria for judging items at a school talent quest
- conduct a debate about a community issue that is causing concern