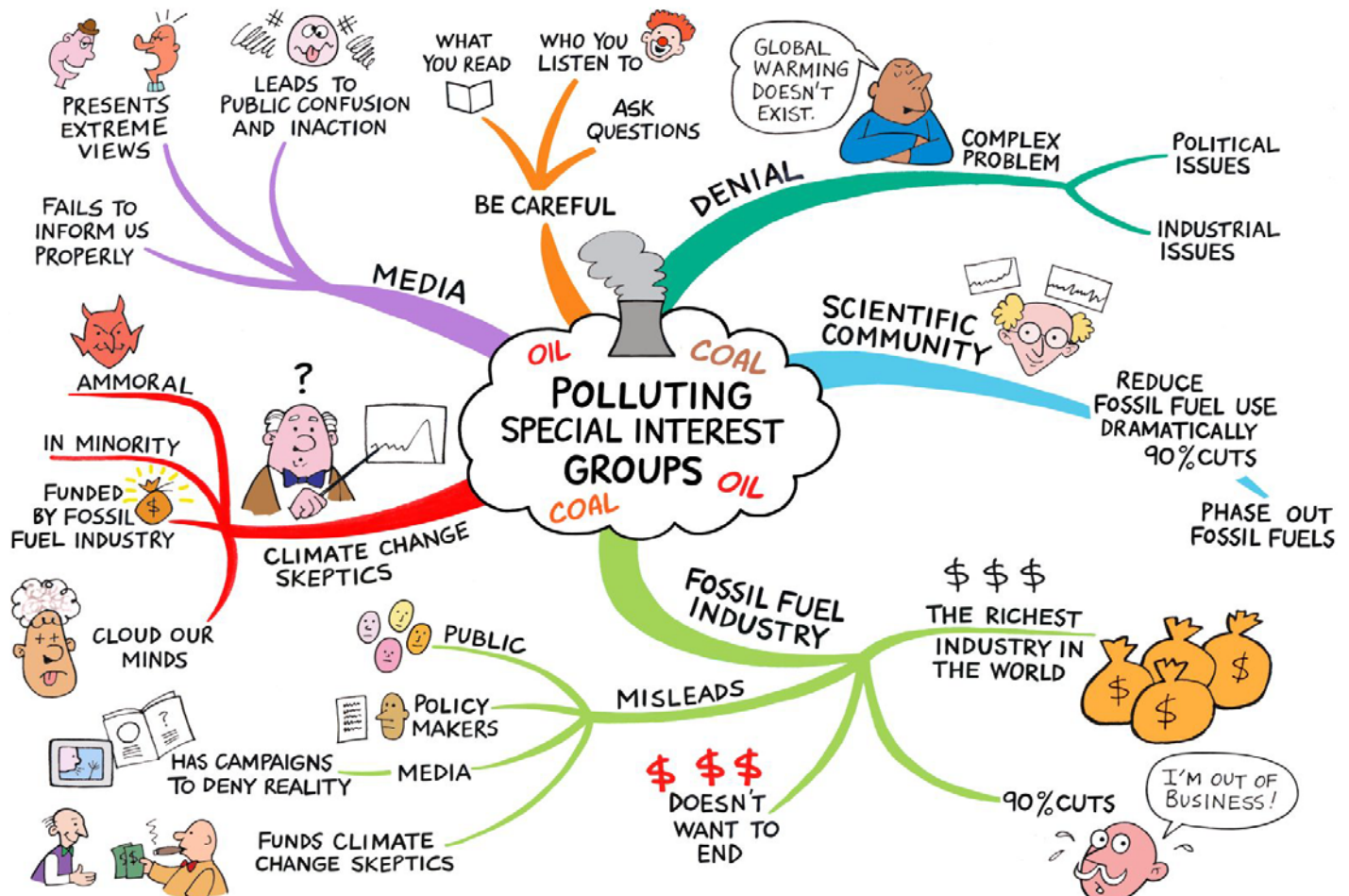


Important Items about Interest Groups

You need to begin familiarizing yourself with these terms. You will be having an identification quiz at the halfway point of the Unit. Remember, the quiz has no word bank, you must know these terms.

actual group	Olson's law of large groups
<i>amicus curiae</i> briefs	pluralist theory
class action lawsuits	political Action Committee
collective good	potential group
electioneering	public interest lobbies
elite theory	right to work laws
free-rider problem	selective benefits
hyperpluralist theory	single-issue group
interest group	subgovernments
lobbying	Union shop

INTEREST GROUPS



<http://sagebrushsolar.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/skeptics.jpg>

Learning Objectives (you should be able to answer these by the time we finish the Unit)

1. Distinguish the essential differences between *interest groups* and *political parties*.
2. Understand 3 basic theories of interest group politics: *pluralist*, *elite* and *hyperpluralist*.
3. Examine how interest group liberalism may be promoted by the network of subgovernments (or "iron triangles") in the American political system..
4. Determine the factors that tend to make an interest groups successful.
5. Differentiate between *potential* group and an *actual* group and determine how the *free-rider problem* applies.
6. Explain how interest groups try to shape public policy.
7. Determine how lobbyists represent interest groups in influencing legislative agenda.
8. Distinguish among the various forms of interest groups, such as economic and public interest groups.
9. Explain why the authors of the textbook say that the problems of honest lobbying now appear to outweigh the traditional problems of dishonest lobbying.
10. Summarize the implications for the size of government that are generated by the power of PACs and special interest groups.
11. Analyze the appropriate role of interest groups within a democratic environment.