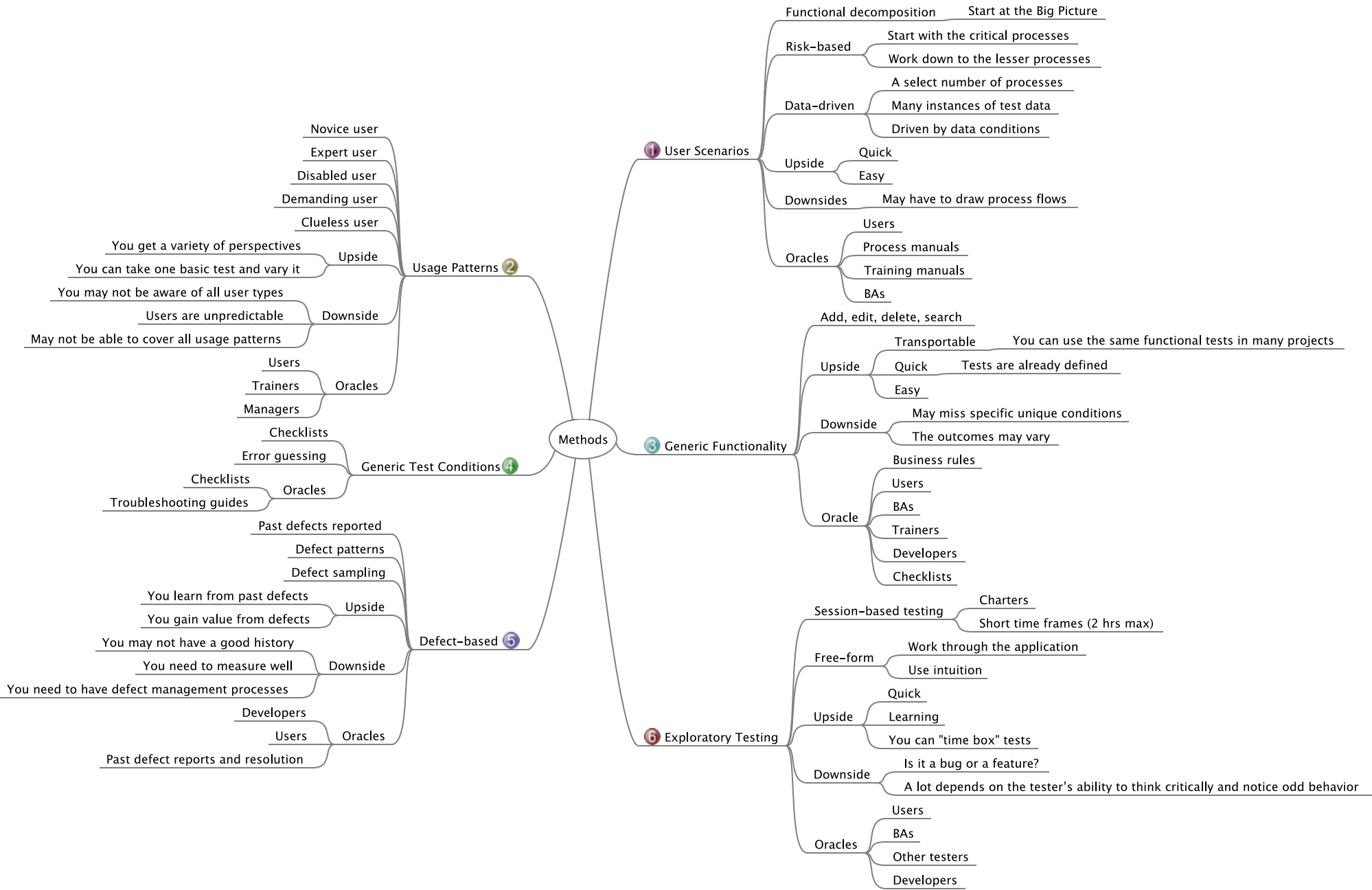
Methods
1 User Scenarios
Functional decomposition
Start at the Big Picture
Risk-based
Start with the critical processes
Work down to the lesser processes
Data-driven
A select number of processes
Many instances of test data
Driven by data conditions
Upside
Quick
Easy
Downsides
May have to draw process flows
Oracles
Users
Process manuals
Training manuals
BAs
2 Usage Patterns
Novice user
Expert user
Disabled user
Demanding user
Clueless user
Upside
You get a variety of perspectives
You can take one basic test and vary it
Downside
You may not be aware of all user types
Users are unpredictable
May not be able to cover all usage patterns
Oracles
Users
Trainers
Managers
3 Generic Functionality
Add, edit, delete, search
Upside
Transportable
You can use the same functional tests in many projects
Quick
Tests are already defined
Easy
Downside
May miss specific unique conditions
The outcomes may vary
Oracle
Business rules
Users
BAs
Trainers
Developers
Checklists
4 Generic Test Conditions
Checklists
Error guessing
Oracles
Checklists
Troubleshooting guides
5 Defect-based
Past defects reported
Defect patterns
Defect sampling
Upside
You learn from past defects
You gain value from defects
Downside
You may not have a good history
You need to measure well
You need to have defect management processes
Oracles
Developers
Users
Past defect reports and resolution
6 Exploratory Testing
Session-based testing
Charters
Short time frames (2 hrs max)
Free-form
Work through the application
Use intuition
Upside
Quick
Learning
You can "time box" tests
Downside
Is it a bug or a feature?
A lot depends on the tester's ability to think critically and notice odd behavior
Oracles
Users
BAs
Other testers
Developers