

Gemini Notebook (the new NotebookLM)

Studying and working on your own documents, with answers that cite the sources



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How to use this handout

This handout gathers, in written and ordered form, everything covered in the lesson. You do not need to memorise it: it is there so you can find things again calmly, later, when the lesson is over and a question is left hanging.

GOAL

Understand what Gemini Notebook is, create a notebook with your sources, ask questions with citations and produce mind maps, audio summaries and other study materials.

What you will be able to do

- Explain what Gemini Notebook is and why it is the new name of NotebookLM.
- Create a notebook and add sources of different types.
- Ask the sources questions and read the citations in the answers.
- Generate a mind map and know the other Studio outputs.

1. A new name, the same idea

If you knew NotebookLM, let me introduce its new name: Gemini Notebook.

On **16 July 2026** Google renamed **NotebookLM** to **Gemini Notebook**. The product remains a tool of its own, built for research, but the new name says it is more and more tied to the rest of Gemini. Old notebooks and old links, according to Google, are kept through automatic redirects: **you do not have to redo anything**. Browsing to `notebooklm.google.com`, in my browser I ended up on **notebook.google.com**.

IN PLAIN WORDS

A normal chat answers with what Gemini knows. Gemini Notebook answers with what is **in your documents**: it is a notebook with a librarian inside who has read only your books.

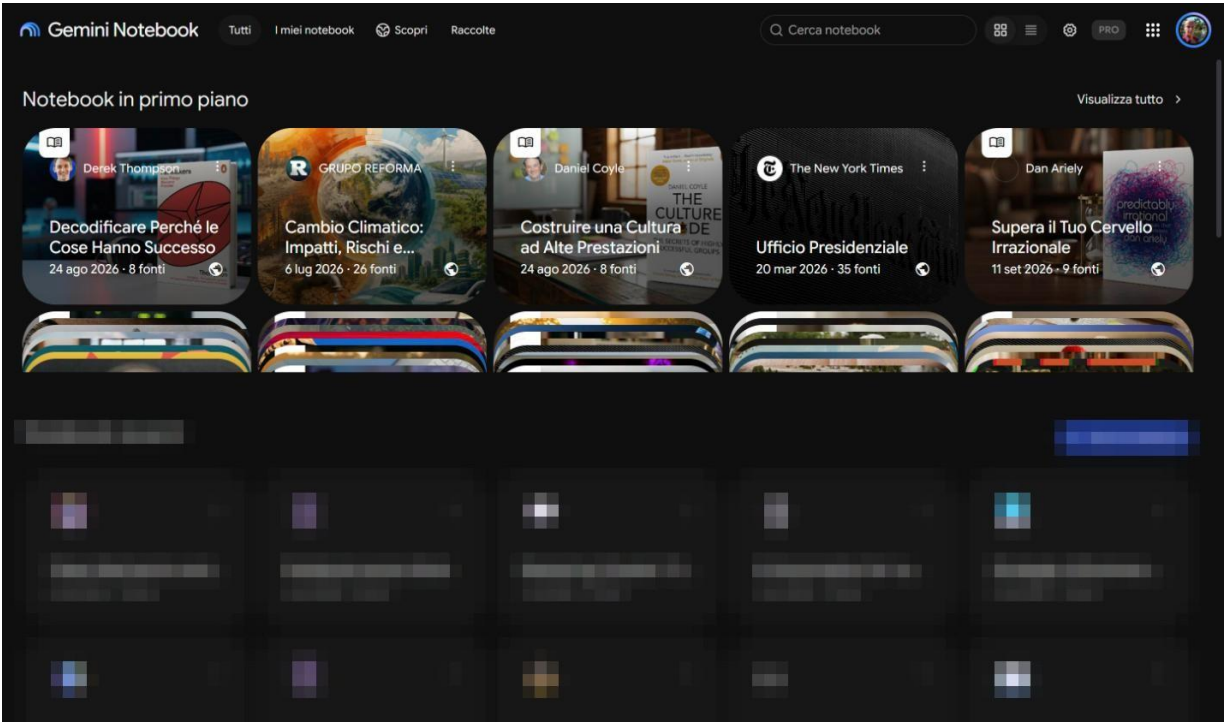
Google says that more than **30 million people** and more than **600,000 organisations** already use it, for example for onboarding training materials or to turn notes into audio and video.

	Gemini (chat)	Gemini Notebook
Where answers come from	From what it knows and from web search.	From the sources you uploaded.
Citations	Not always.	Every answer points to the sources.
Typical use	Ideas, writing, general questions.	Studying, summarising, comparing your documents.

Chat or Notebook? What changes is where the answers come from.

2. The Gemini Notebook home

Open **notebook.google.com** (or, from the Gemini app, the **Nuovo notebook** (New notebook) entry in the sidebar) and you enter the home.



The home: featured notebooks at the top; recent notebooks (blurred here) further down. Interface in Italian.

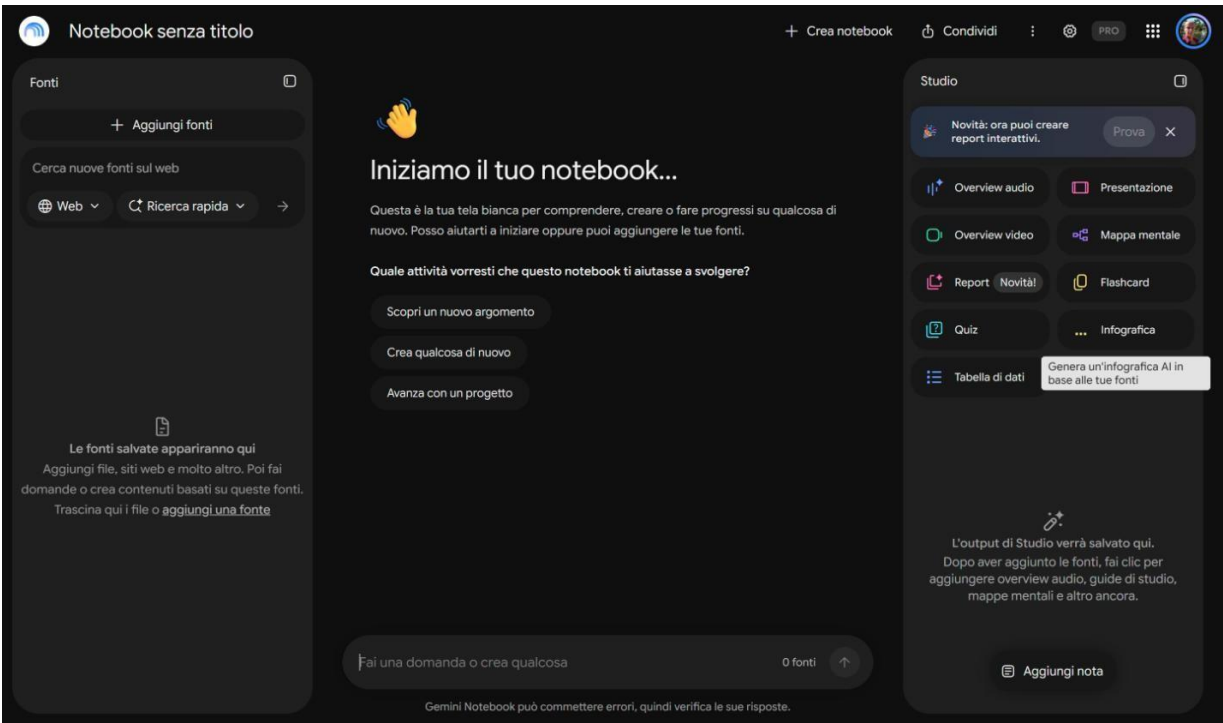
- At the top the tabs **Tutti** (All), **I miei notebook** (My notebooks), **Scopri** (Discover) and **Raccolte** (Collections), the search, the switch between grid and list and your plan badge (here **PRO**).
- **Notebook in primo piano** (Featured notebooks): public examples, prepared by authors and organisations, which you can browse for inspiration.
- **Notebook recenti** (Recent notebooks): your own, with date and number of sources.
- The **Nuovo notebook** button to start.

MIND WHAT YOU SHOW

The titles of your notebooks reveal a lot about your work. If you take a screenshot or share your screen, cover the recent notebooks section. I blurred it.

3. Your first notebook

Click **Nuovo notebook**. A **three-panel** screen opens, which stays the same for every notebook.

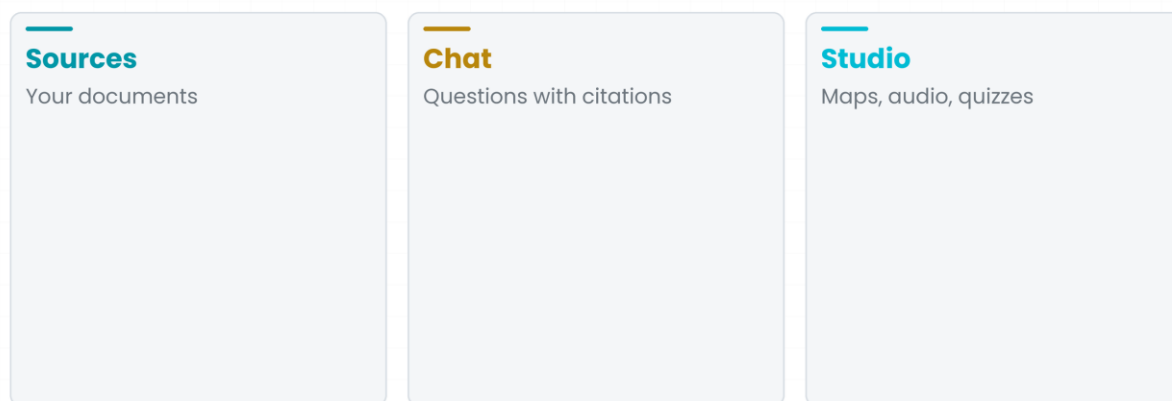


An empty notebook: Sources on the left, chat in the middle, Studio on the right.

Panel	What it is for
Fonti (Sources, left)	The list of your documents. With Aggiungi fonti (Add sources) you upload new ones; with the search field you look for sources on the web.
Chat (centre)	Where you ask questions. It starts with «Let's start your notebook...» and three suggestions to begin.
Studio (right)	The outputs Gemini Notebook produces from your sources: audio, video, mind maps, quizzes...

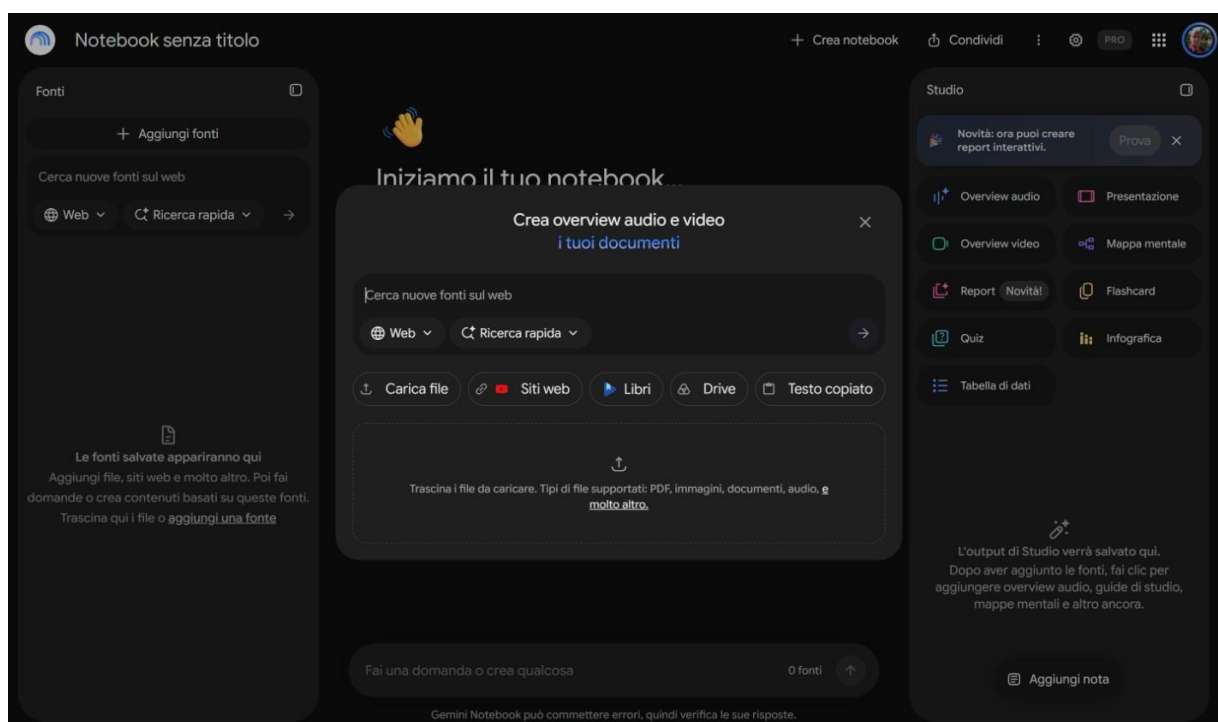
The three panels of Gemini Notebook.

Sources, chat, studio



The three panels of Gemini Notebook

3.1 Adding sources

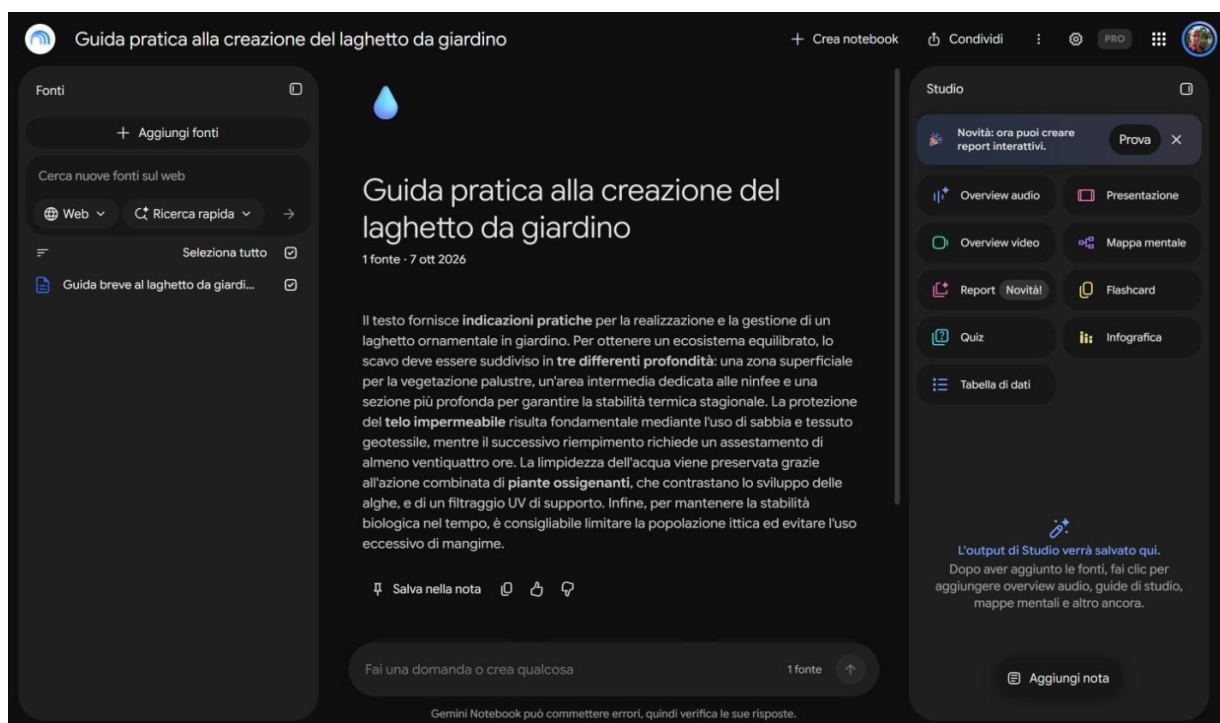


The Add sources window: you upload files, websites, books, Drive documents or pasted text.

- **Carica file** (Upload file): PDFs, images, documents, audio and other formats.
- **Siti web** (Websites, also YouTube videos): you paste an address.
- **Libri** (Books): add a book from the linked library (the icon is the Google Play Books one).
- **Drive**: documents you already have in your Google Drive.
- **Testo copiato** (Copied text): you paste a text directly.

- **Web search:** you write what you are looking for and Gemini Notebook proposes sources, with the **Web** and **Ricerca rapida** (Quick search) options.

For this lesson I pasted as **Copied text** a small guide written by me on how to build a garden pond: a few lines, but with the three depth zones, the liner, the oxygenating plants and green water.



As soon as the source was inserted, Gemini Notebook gave the notebook a title, chose an icon and wrote a summary.

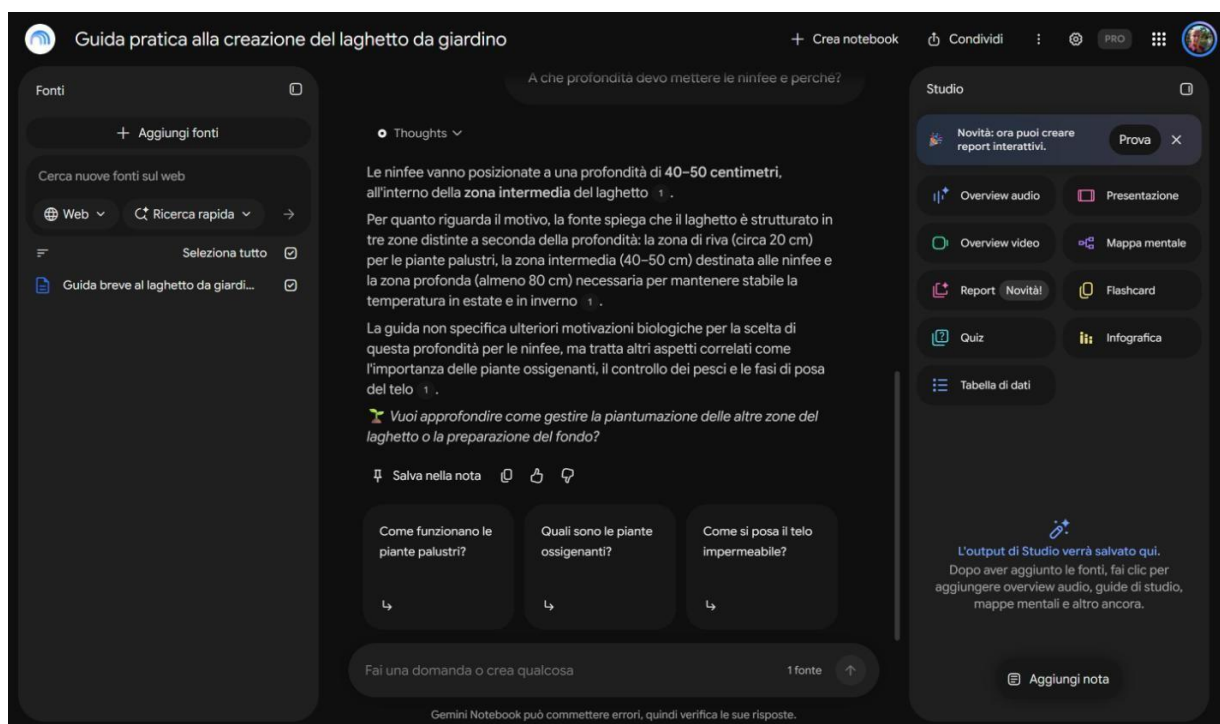
ONE NOTEBOOK, ONE TOPIC

Keep **one subject per notebook**: one for the pond, one for the course you attend, one for the legal case. Mixed sources make mixed answers.

4. Asking the sources (with citations)

In the chat in the middle you can ask any question about your sources. I asked (in Italian):

«**At what depth should I put the water lilies and why?**».



The answer with the citation numbers: clicking them shows the passage of the source the information comes from.

The answer was: water lilies go at **40–50 centimetres**, in the intermediate zone, with the explanation of the three zones. Next to the sentences small **numbers** appear (the citations): clicking them takes you to the exact passage of the source.

The part I liked most is the **honesty**. My guide did not explain the biological reason for the depth for water lilies, and Gemini Notebook said so: «The guide does not specify further biological reasons for choosing this depth». It invented nothing: it stopped where the source ended.

- Under the answer you find **Salva nella nota** (Save to note): you keep good answers in a note.
- At the bottom there are **suggested questions** to continue.
- The page always reminds you: «Gemini Notebook can make mistakes, so check the answers».

CITATION DOES NOT MEAN TRUTH

Citations tell you **where** the answer comes from, not that the source is right. If you upload a wrong document, you will have well-cited and wrong answers. The quality of the sources remains your responsibility.

5. The Studio: from sources to materials

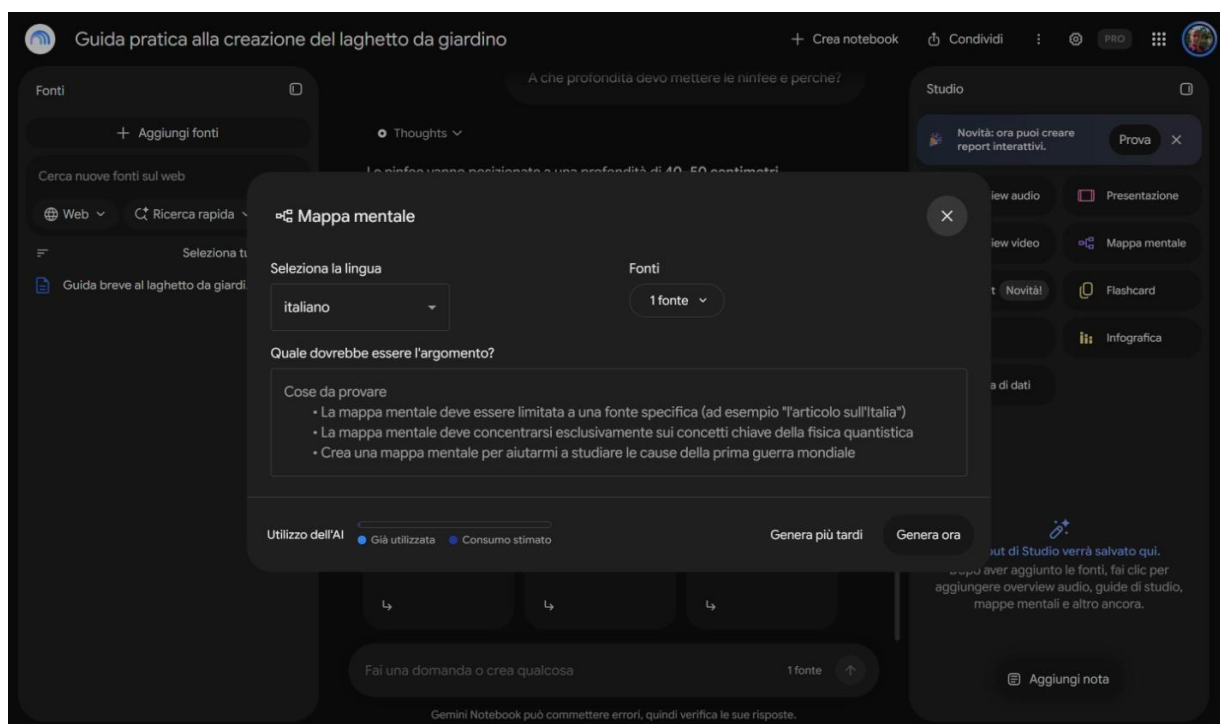
The panel on the right, the **Studio**, turns your sources into other materials. Each entry is a button.

Output	What it produces
Audio overview	A conversation between two voices talking about your sources, like a small podcast.
Video overview	A video version with images and voice.
Presentation	A presentation built from the sources.
Mind map	A tree diagram of the concepts, with branches to open and close.
Report	A summary document, with a recent novelty: interactive reports.
Flashcards	Question and answer cards to revise.
Quiz	Multiple-choice questions to check you understood.
Infographic	An AI-generated infographic on your sources.
Data table	A table with the data extracted from the sources.

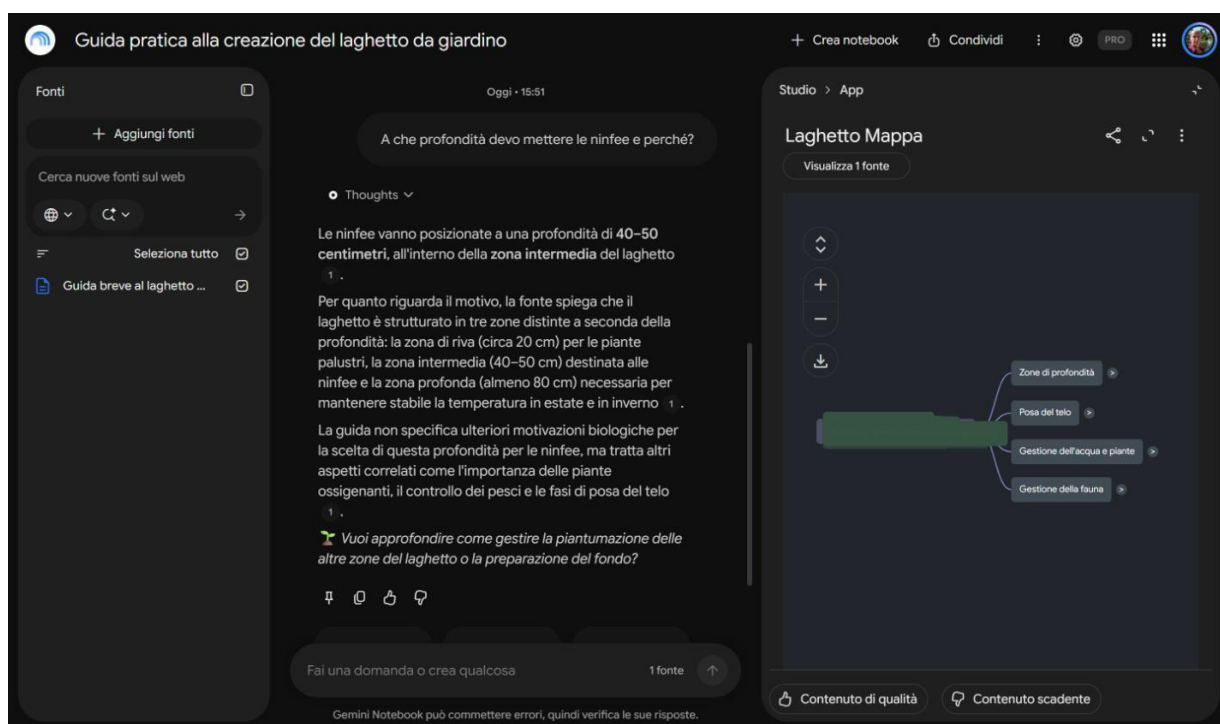
The Studio outputs on 7 October 2026.

5.1 Example: the mind map

I clicked **Mappa mentale** (Mind map). A window opens where you choose the **language**, the **sources** to use and, if you like, a **specific topic**. At the bottom there is also the **Utilizzo dell'AI** (AI usage) meter (how much it uses) and two buttons: **Genera più tardi** (Generate later) and **Genera ora** (Generate now).



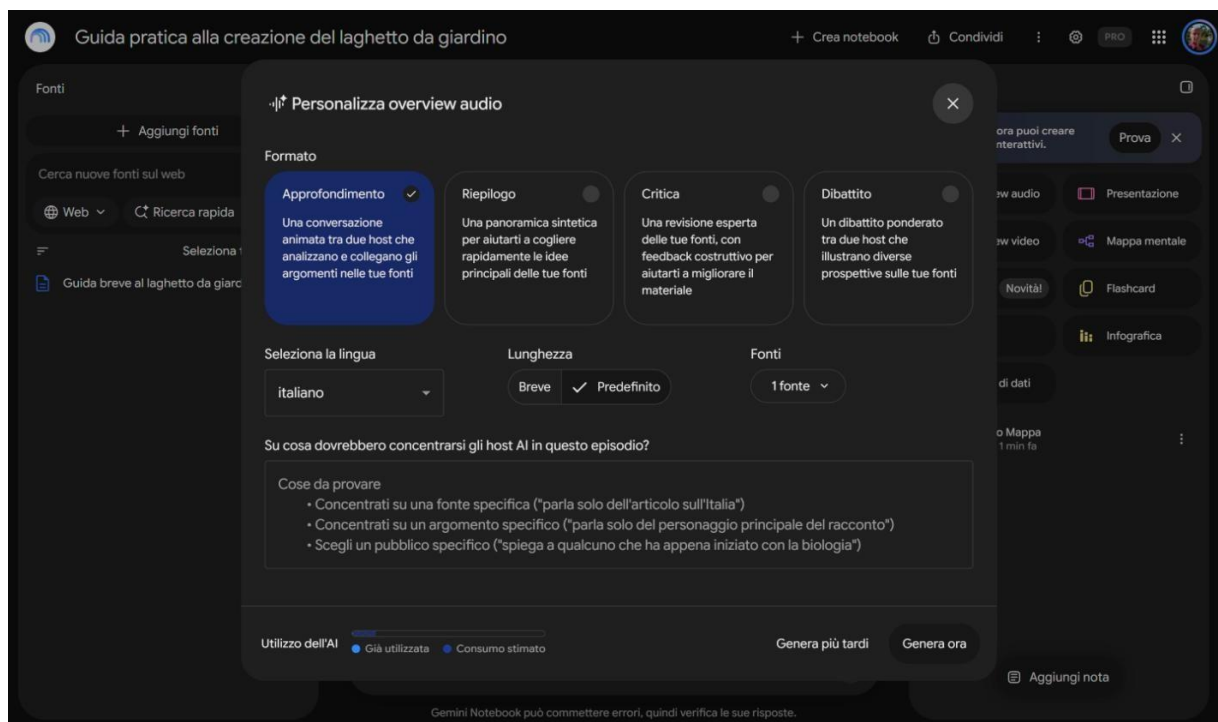
The window to create the mind map: language, sources, topic, AI usage.



The generated map, with four branches: Depth zones, Laying the liner, Water and plant management, Fauna management.

In about ten seconds the map was ready, with the notebook title in the centre and four branches. Clicking the arrow to the right of each node opens the sub-topics; there are buttons to enlarge, reduce and **download** the map, and two **rating** buttons («Quality content» and «Poor content»).

5.2 Example: the audio overview



The Customise audio overview window: four formats, language, length and hints for the hosts.

- **Deep dive** (Approfondimento): an animated conversation between two hosts who analyse and connect the topics in your sources.
- **Summary** (Riepilogo): a concise overview to grasp the main ideas quickly.
- **Critique** (Critica): an expert review of your sources, with constructive feedback.
- **Debate** (Dibattito): two hosts comparing different perspectives.
- Then you choose the **language**, the **length** (Short or Default) and, if you like, what the hosts should focus on.

I DID NOT GENERATE AUDIO AND VIDEO

To avoid using up the limits, in this course I opened the audio overview window but did not generate the audio or a video. When you try, remember that the times are longer than for a map: the app can notify you when they are ready, if you enable browser notifications.

6. Gemini Notebook inside Gemini

The new name is no accident. Now Gemini Notebook and the Gemini app talk to each other.

- In Gemini's **sidebar** there is the **Notebook** section with **Nuovo notebook**, and in the settings menu the **Gemini Notebook** entry.
- In the **Connected apps** page there is the switch for Gemini Notebook (on my account, that day, it was off).
- According to Google, notebooks sync between the Gemini app and Gemini Notebook, and integration with Google Search (AI Mode) has been announced as the rollout widens.
- A novelty announced in July 2026: a **cloud computer** for every notebook, which runs code to analyse data and produce charts and spreadsheets. It was available immediately for Google AI Ultra and Workspace customers, with arrival on Pro plans expected in the following weeks. I did not try it: check whether it is already in your plan.

7. Ideas, limits and common sense

1. **Study:** you upload handouts and articles, generate a mind map and a quiz, and revise.
2. **Work:** you upload manuals or regulations and ask precise questions, with the citation telling you where to look.
3. **Compare:** you upload three quotes and ask for the differences, with a data table.
4. **Learn on the move:** the audio overview turns your notes into something to listen to in the car or in the garden.

WHAT NOT TO UPLOAD

The privacy rules from lesson 2 apply: do not upload documents with confidential data of third parties unless you are authorised, and read Google's notice on how contents are handled. For legal or medical documents, Gemini Notebook helps read and organise, but **it does not replace a professional.**

Hands-on exercise

Twenty-five minutes, three or four sources on a topic you care about.

1. Open notebook.google.com (or click Nuovo notebook in Gemini's bar) and create a notebook.
2. Add three different sources on the same topic: a pasted text, a Drive document or a PDF, and a web page.
3. Read the automatic summary and compare it with what you already know: does it look right?
4. Ask two questions about the sources and click at least one citation to check the original passage.
5. Ask a question the sources do not answer and see how Gemini Notebook reacts.
6. Generate a mind map and save it. If you like, also open the audio overview window and try the four formats.

WATCH OUT

Did you click at least one citation?

Did you see how Gemini Notebook answers when the source is not enough?

Questions that come up in class

Does NotebookLM no longer exist?

It changed name: since 16 July 2026 it is called Gemini Notebook. Old notebooks and old links, according to Google, stay reachable through automatic redirects.

Why use Gemini Notebook instead of the chat?

When you want answers based only on your documents, with citations. The normal chat also answers with what it knows, and sometimes invents.

How many documents can I upload?

It depends on your plan and changes over time: check the limits indicated by Google on your account.

Can I share a notebook?

Yes, there is a Share button at the top. The same cautions as Gemini's shared links apply: whoever receives it sees your sources.

Is the audio overview always correct?

No: it is a spoken summary produced by AI, which can simplify or get things wrong. Listen to it as an introduction and check the sources.

Glossary

Term	What it means
Audio overview	A two-voice spoken summary of your sources.
Citation	The number next to a sentence that points to the passage of the source it comes from.
Gemini Notebook	The new name of NotebookLM: the tool to study and work on your own documents.
Source	A document, a web page or a text you add to a notebook.
Studio	The panel that turns sources into audio, video, mind maps, quizzes and more.

Further reading

Google, NotebookLM is now Gemini Notebook (blog) - July 2026 announcement; usage figures and cloud computer

Google Workspace Updates, NotebookLM is now Gemini Notebook - July 2026

Gemini Notebook, notebook.google.com - author's screenshots and tests, 7 October 2026

WATCH OUT

Data checked on 7 October 2026. The audio and video Studio outputs are described but not generated for this course. The cloud computer for data analysis was announced by Google and not tried. Labels are shown in Italian as on screen, with an English gloss.