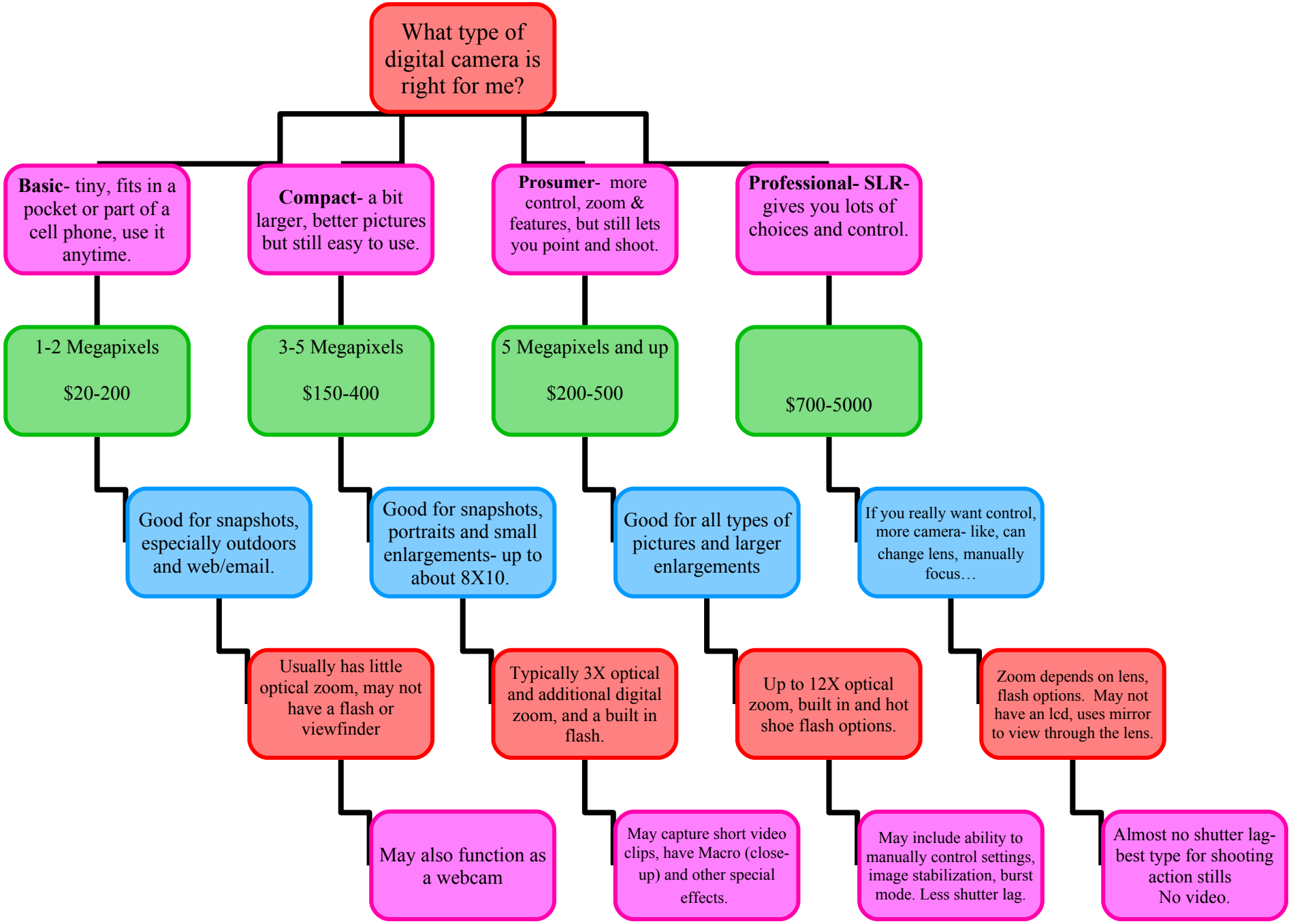
What type of digital camera is right for me?
Basic- tiny, fits in a pocket or part of a cell phone, use it anytime.
Compact- a bit larger, better pictures but still easy to use.
Prosumer- more control, zoom & features, but still lets you point and shoot.
Professional- SLR- gives you lots of choices and control.
1-2 Megapixels
$20-200
3-5 Megapixels
$150-400
5 Megapixels and up
$200-500
$700-5000
Good for snapshots, especially outdoors and web/email.
Good for snapshots, portraits and small enlargements- up to about 8X10.
Good for all types of pictures and larger enlargements
If you really want control, more camera- like, can change lens, manually focus…
Usually has little optical zoom, may not have a flash or viewfinder
Typically 3X optical and additional digital zoom, and a built in flash.
Up to 12X optical zoom, built in and hot shoe flash options.
Zoom depends on lens, flash options. May not have an lcd, uses mirror to view through the lens.
May also function as a webcam
May capture short video clips, have Macro (close-up) and other special effects.
May include ability to manually control settings, image stabilization, burst mode. Less shutter lag.
Almost no shutter lag- best type for shooting action stills
No video.