

Issues tree

Learning outcomes: pupils will have explored the causes, effects and solutions to a given issue.

Skills: Critical and creative thinking; Communication; Conflict Resolution and collaboration

Concept: This activity could be used to explore any of the following concepts

- Interdependence
- Identity and diversity
- Fairness/social justice
- Conflict and peace
- Sustainability

depending on the issue that is to be addressed:

The Issues tree is a way of structuring an enquiry to encourage pupils to explore the causes, effects and solutions to a given issue.

The activity is best carried out in groups but it can be completed individually.

Give each student or group a piece of a paper and a pen. It might be helpful to explain how an Issues Tree works, using an exemplar on the board.

Pupils draw a fruit tree in outline. They then label the trunk with a the chosen issue, the roots with the causes of the issue, the branches with the effects of the issue and the fruit with possible solutions to the issue. This activity can be carried out either before pupils research the issue, as a way of representing what they already know, or at the end of their research as a way of presenting their findings.

Example: Bo, Sierra Leone - Leamington Spa town link workshop

