



NAME: _____

TEAM MEMBERS: _____

Problem Tree

(1 OF 1)

Students will learn more about the issue they are tackling as they apply what they have learned, along with their critical thinking skills, to consider the causes and effects of the problem presented through the issue.

LEAVES/BRANCHES: EFFECTS

These are the results created by the problem. At first, this part of the issue appears easy to tackle, but when leaves and branches are trimmed, they grow back quickly. Consider the multilayered effects, or "effects of effects," that can arise when a problem goes unaddressed. Always ask: "Then what happens?"

TRUNK: PROBLEM

This is the key issue that's being studied. Because it's not as apparent as the leaves, the core problem itself sometimes takes a little longer to identify.

ROOTS: CAUSES

These are the situations or factors that have led to the problem. When exploring the root causes of a problem, ask yourself "Why does this problem exist?" Dig deeper to consider the "causes of causes" — the multiple layers of factors that contribute to a problem. In your problem tree graphic organizer, start by writing the problem at the center of the tree, and then look at the causes and effects of an issue. Keep digging to go deeper on the issue to find its supporting and root causes.