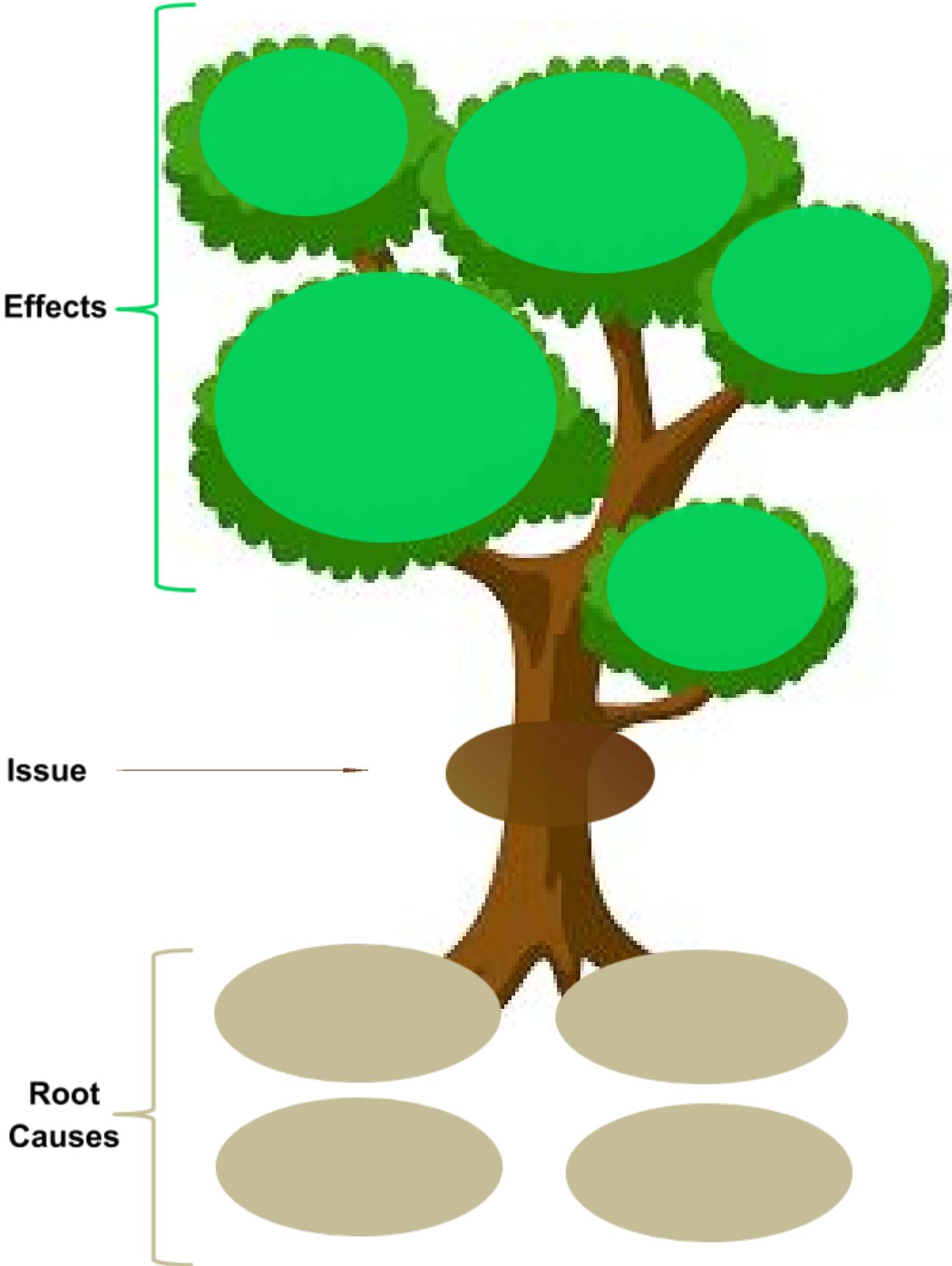


Cause and Effect



How to use this Diagram

**Note: This can be done individually or as a class activity. Depending on student's grade level and ability, you may need to preface this activity with a conversation on Cause and Effect. Use simple examples that are relevant to their lives to make this concept accessible to them.*

- 1) Have students write the chosen environmental issue in the center of the tree in the brown circle.
- 2) Prompt students to think about what effects this issue can have and write down their thoughts in the branches and leaves in the tree. To stimulate conversation, here are a few perspectives that could be affected by an environmental issue:
 - Environmental effects and/or issues that could arise
 - How could this affect our lives?
 - Buildings/ city infrastructure
- 3) Shift focus to think about root causes of your environmental issue. Why is this happening in the first place? Have students brainstorm their thoughts in the circles near the roots of the tree. If needed, prompt students with the following questions to help stimulate thought:
 - How did this issue begin?
 - Is it being perpetuated (kept going) by a group of people or law? Maybe the lack of a law?
 - Use the "Five Whys" Method. Ask yourself: Why is this issue happening? Then ask "Why is that happening?" etc. Keep going until you're at the bottom of the issue!
- 4) The class may find that the environmental issue that they chose is already the root cause, which is great! Or they may have originally identified an effect of a root cause. Come together and talk about the root causes of the issue that was chosen to work on. Working on an effect of a root cause is not usually a good strategy to move forward on. Root causes are the best issues to tackle because changing them have high impact and create systemic change in your community. Consider revising your chosen issue if this applies.