

Why-why-why chain

A great way to deepen learners understanding of an issue while developing critical questioning techniques.

Aims

- Promotes thinking around the underlying causes of an issue
- Highlight local to global links
- Encourages examining own assumptions

What you need

- Small group activity or whole-class discussion.
- Flip chart paper, pens sticky notes.
- Example below to copy.

What to do

Write the issue in the box at the left-hand side of the page. Then ask learners to think of all the direct reasons for an issue. These could be written (or drawn) in boxes in the neighbouring column, linked to the issue box by arrows.

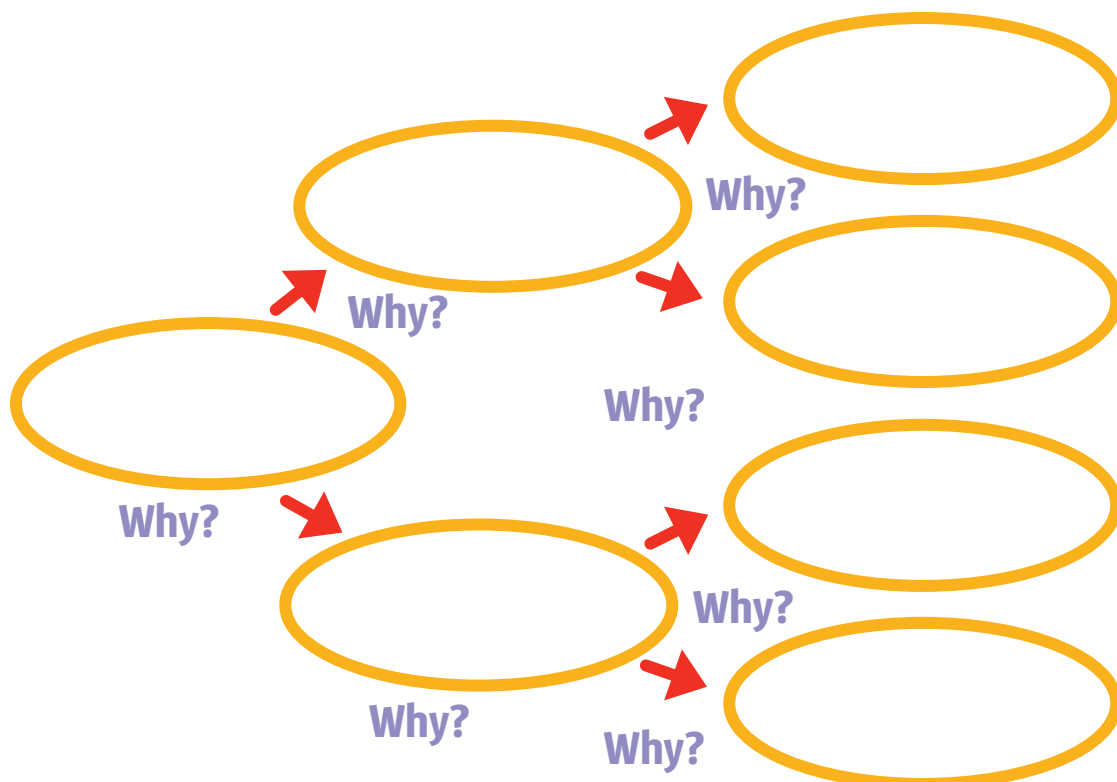
Ask learners to think through the possible reasons behind this first reasons. Each reason may have more than one contributing factor. Repeat the process as many times as the issue will allow, each time starting a new column to the right of the previous one. The end result is a flow chart which highlights the complexity of an issue and the different scales of causation. You could then ask learners to distinguish between links that they can support with evidence and those they cannot.

Reflection and evaluation

Review the boxes on the right-hand side. Use the following reflection questions:

Is it fair that this is happening?

What can be done to change things?



To find out more and to watch a short animation about the method visit [here](https://www.stridemagazine.org.uk)