


Thematic Tree - Part 2

 **Step:** Three - Explore more!

 **Time:** 20 min

 **Space and materials:**

- Posters;
- Large printouts of designs of trees;
- Colour markers;
- Posters from the same tool in Part 1.

 **Description of the tool**

1. A thematic tree is a great tool that can be used to record and structure of research on a specific topic. It uses a tree which should comprise a visible root, a tree trunk and the branches. The trunk represents the topic/problem (e.g., water pollution), the root represents the causes of the problem, and the branches present the outcomes or the results of the specific problem. Part 1 of the tool will be conducted before the actual research is carried out by the participants.
2. Following up from part 1, participants in their respective teams conduct research on the topics that were discussed in Part 1.
3. Instruct the participants to use a new (empty) tree to record the findings of their research. The point of the current activity is to follow-up and observe whether there have been any differences recorded after the teams have conducted their research.
4. The tree from Part 1 should be previewed next to the new one. The participants should spend some time considering the differences on their perceived and assumed recordings and compare them with the facts they have discovered.
5. Ask the participants to share their findings and try to find the similarities in the causes and outcomes of each problem. Questions for discussion:
 - What are the differences between the pre-research and the post-research tree?
 - If there were differences, where do they come from?
 - What sources were used to research the issue(s)?
 - Are there any interconnections? If yes, which ones can be identified?

 **Additional remarks**

Another alternative is to divide a larger group into teams and ask them to design their own thematic trees by breaking a big topic into sub-topics and exploring them in-depth. This methodology is the same as the one in Part 1.