
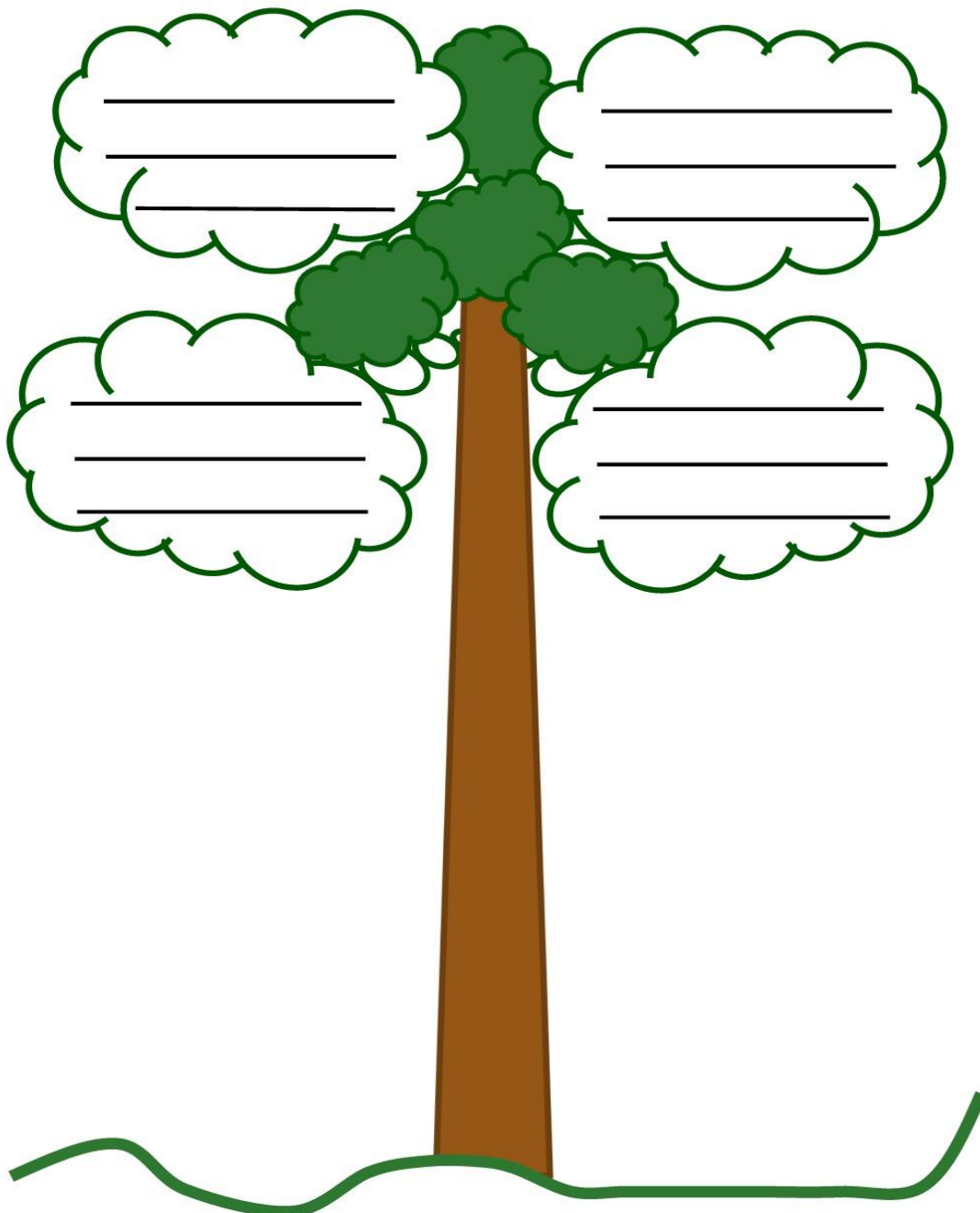
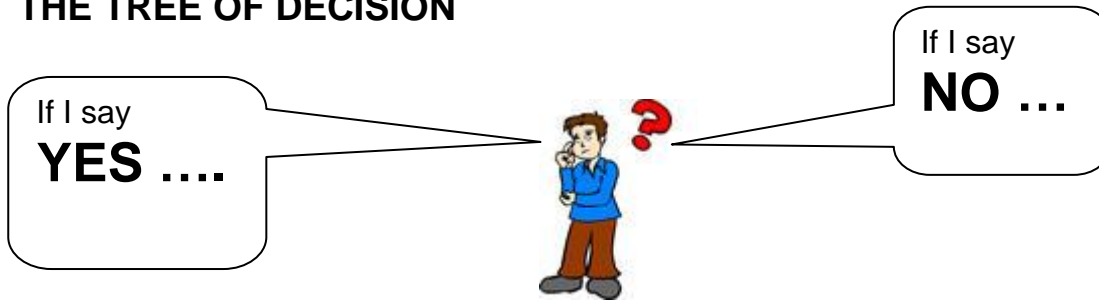


## THE TREE OF DECISION

<b>Age group</b>	Primary School, Grades 5 – 8
<b>Competency features</b>	Ability to accept risk 
<b>Aims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to experience decision-making processes and realize their consequences</li> <li>▪ to prevent social pathology</li> <li>▪ to realize what is right and what is wrong</li> </ul>
<b>Timing</b>	45 minutes
<b>Location</b>	indoors
<b>Resources &amp; materials</b>	writing implements, paper, Worksheet: The Tree of Decision
<b>Description</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) This exercise is suitable in lessons dealing with all sorts of socially pathological phenomena (drink and drug abuse, smoking, bullying). It also lends itself for all kinds of decision-making situations (choice of a school; field trip; voluntary afternoon classes; yes or no, etc.). Teacher will amend it to the circumstances; as an example, smoking is used here.</li> <li>2) Teacher posits this issue: <i>“Imagine that on your way home from school, on the park bench you can see your two best friends, happily puffing away. They invite you to join them and have one, too. All of a sudden, you need to make a fairly big decision: Will you, or won’t you? What consequences will your decision have? If you refuse, you will be looked down upon; on the other hand, you know pretty well that cigarettes and smoking are harmful. What will you do? How will you decide?”</i></li> <li>3) Teacher hands out <i>The Tree of Decision</i> Worksheet; his charges are left to work on it for about 10 minutes. Finally, teacher calls for their answers and reasoning.</li> <li>4) The exercise may be complemented by role playing – how to refuse something graciously.</li> <li>5) At the end, teacher goes over the answers, again stressing that smoking damages health (as do other social pathologies); he highlights those responses that firmly delivered a “No!” on the occasion.</li> </ol>	
<b>Risks and recommendations</b>	During discussion, pictures of unsavoury results of smoking may be shown.

	Teacher ought to respect any hesitation and/or misgivings on the part of the pupils. He should avoid admonishing those who would have succumbed to peer pressure; instead, he would do well admitting that situations like that one are challenging, indeed. He should help the pupils to find ways of refusing firmly but graciously.
<b>Feedback</b>	Stressing that smoking and other bad habits can seriously damage one's health.
<b>Application in classes</b>	civic education, family education
<b>Inspired by</b>	Moorcroft, Christine. <i>Developing citizenship</i> . London: A&C Black Publishers, 2005. 64 pp.
<b>Notes</b>	

Worksheet  
**THE TREE OF DECISION**



---

---

---

---