

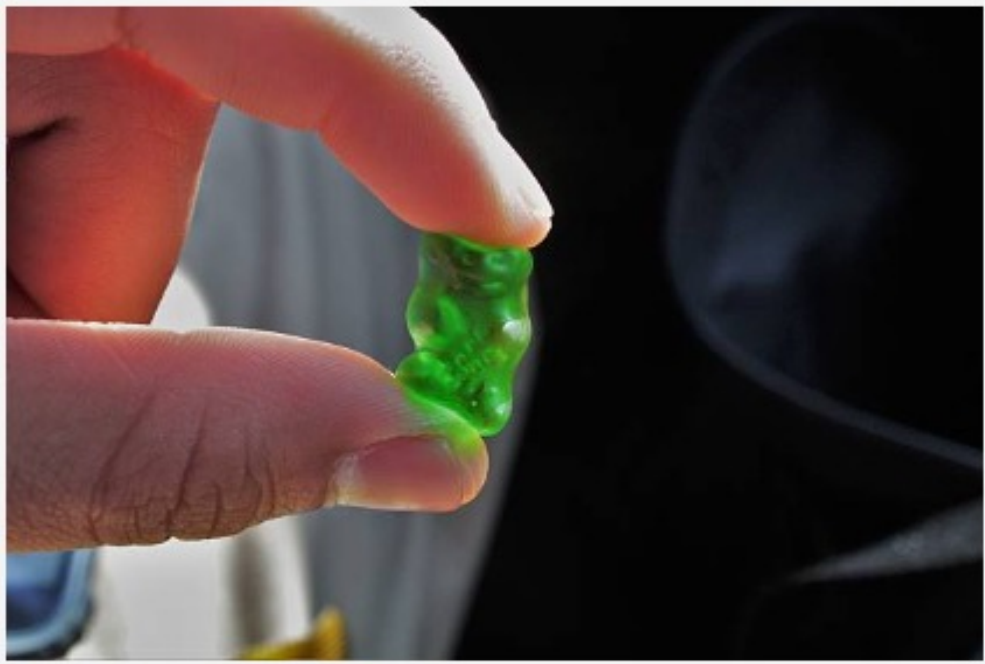
Sports in (climate) crisis

Classroom presentation



Sports in (climate) crisis

1. What is the connection between sports events and the climate crisis?



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When it comes to climate action, the ball is in sport's court

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From the water required to maintain the golf course during The Masters tournament in Augusta to the hundreds of flights it takes to bring football fans to a World Cup, to the tonnes of freight shipped from venue to venue during Formula 1's season, major sports events are not helping much in the fight against global heating. What's more, there is a lack of recognition within sport of its responsibilities and little discussion about possible solutions.

This is strange given that the effect works both ways; the climate crisis is not just affected by sports, it is already having a negative impact on many sports. When ice-climber Will Gadd set out to conquer the world's glaciers he didn't realise it would become a race against climate change. 'I'd seen pictures of the ice on [Mount] Kilimanjaro ... and I thought *glaciers are there forever – they don't go away*. I started reading research papers on Africa, and one of them said the ice on Kilimanjaro could be gone in as little as five years.' When he arrived at the summit, Gadd was shocked: 'The ice ... wasn't there, it was gone. The things I planned to climb were gone.'

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Yet sport can be a powerful motivator and has the potential to communicate the climate crisis to its fans: it can bring even the most macho of men to tears and unite whole nations behind its teams. Could sport have a role to play in driving climate awareness and empowering people to take action? Will Gadd and Amy Steel are among a growing number of athletes who think so. Gadd hopes that the striking images of his climbs will raise awareness of the effects of global heating, while Amy now works on emissions-reporting for large financial corporations, aiming to reduce their emissions. One thing is certain. Sport, like humanity itself, is in a race against time. It must put climate change at the top of its agenda and decarbonise at a Usain Bolt-like pace if we're going to get a handle on climate.



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2. Read the article again and choose the main point each paragraph is making.

Paragraph 1

- a Runners like Usain Bolt are efficient because they use very little energy.
- b Sports events use a lot of energy.
- c The Olympic Games should not continue because they are not sustainable.

Paragraph 2

- a The sporting world isn't paying much attention to its environmental responsibilities.
- b There are different reasons each sport affects the environment.
- c Solutions to the environmental damage caused by sport are difficult to identify.

Paragraph 3

- a Global heating threatens sports that rely on ice and snow.
- b Sport is a good way to communicate the climate crisis because you can see its effects.
- c Not only does sport affect the climate, the climate affects sport.



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2. Read the article again and choose the main point each paragraph is making.

Paragraph 4

- a The financial cost of the climate crisis to the sports world will be significant.
- b Heat is making some sports events dangerous for athletes.
- c The climate crisis is affecting sport in different ways.

Paragraph 5

- a There are many sportspeople who are fighting the climate crisis.
- b There is a way for sport to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- c Sport cannot reduce its carbon emissions quickly enough.



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3. Use a word from the article to complete each sentence.

1 An inventor has created a bicycle that can be used to _____ the lights in your home.
(para 1)

Paragraph 1

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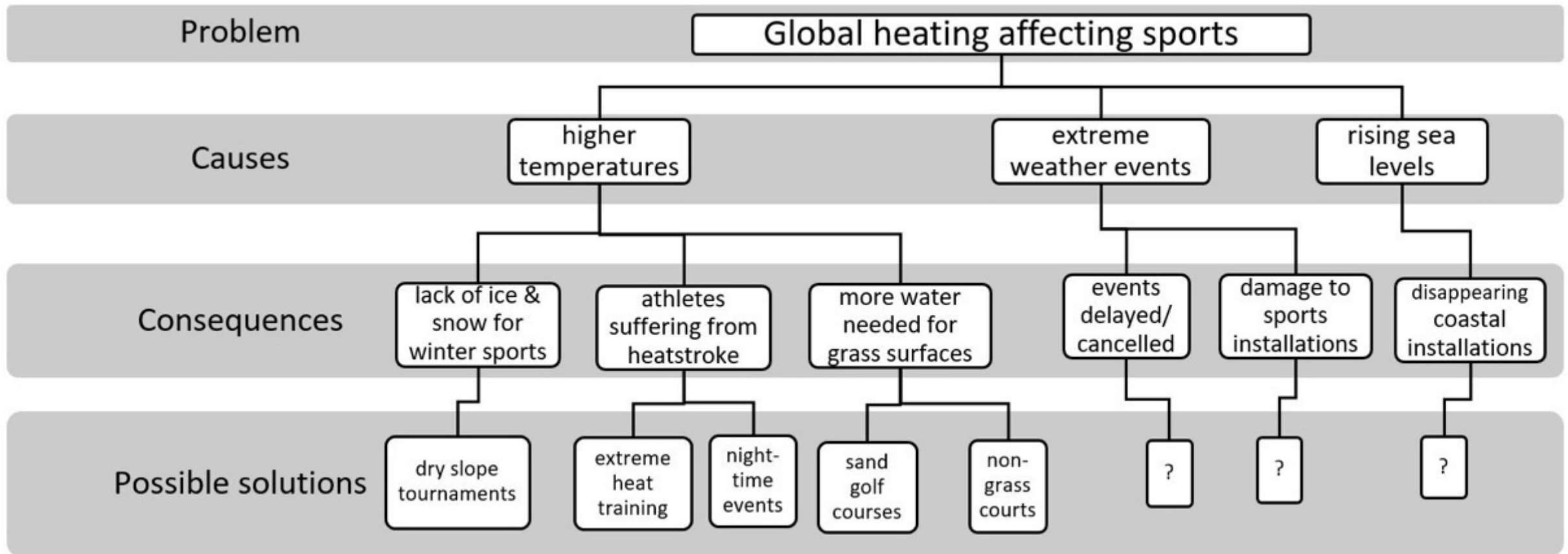
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A problem tree

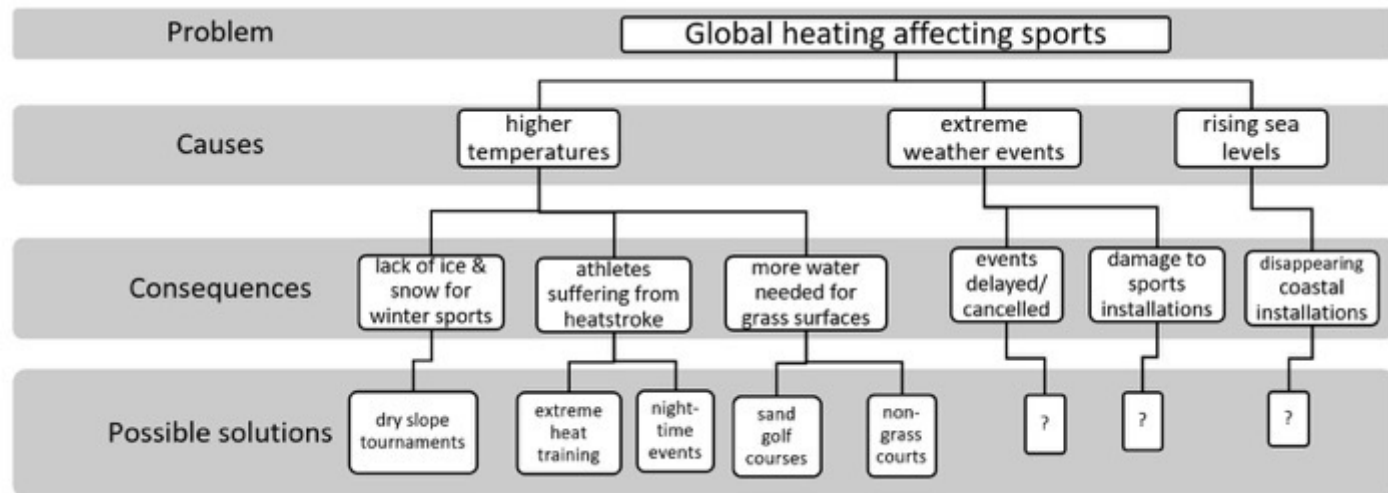


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4. Make sentences about the information in the problem tree using the expressions below, which introduce causes, consequences and possible solutions.

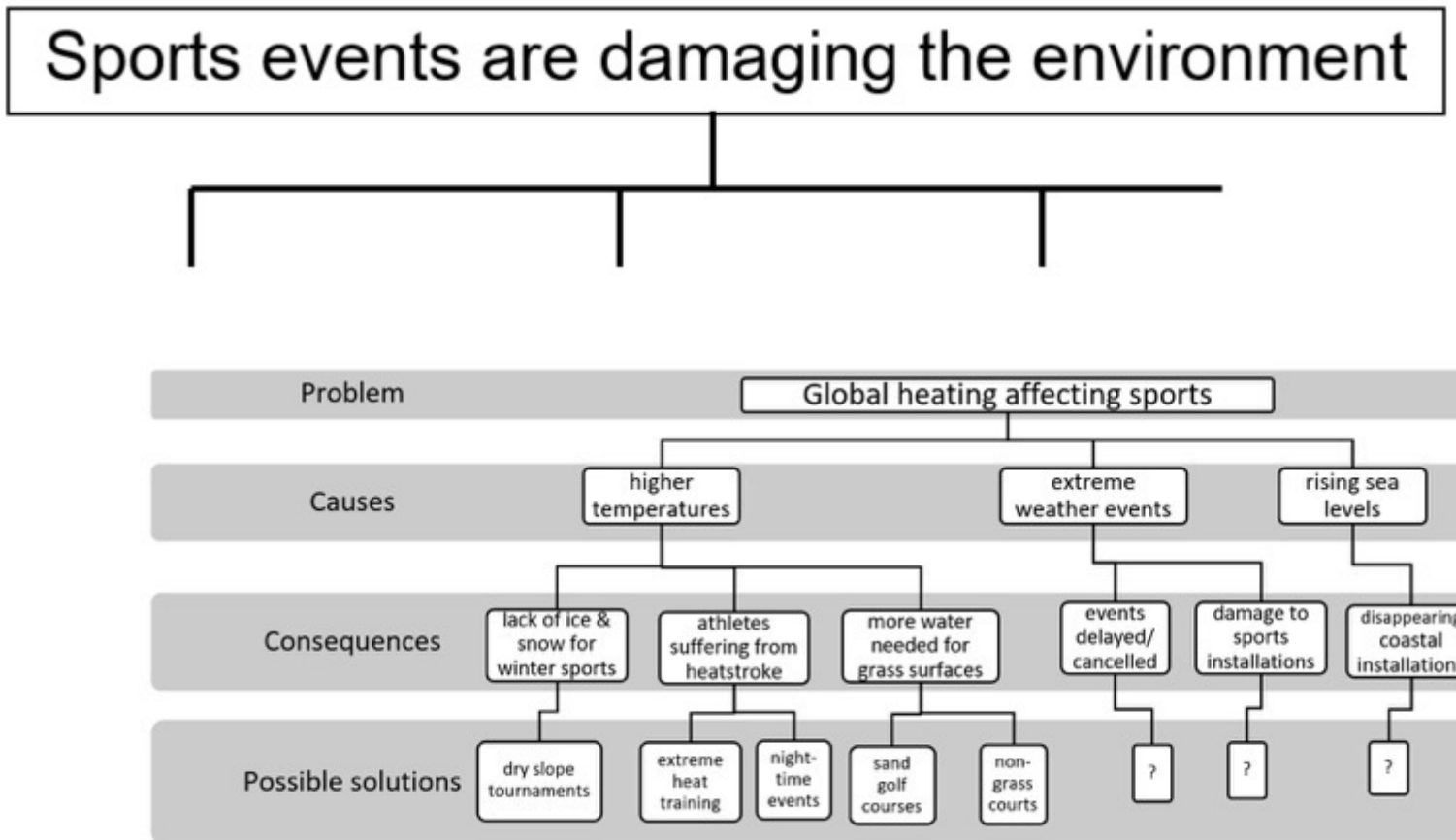
As a result, ... Consequently, ... due to ... means there will be ...
 This has the effect of ... would avoid the need for ... would protect people from ...
 ... can/will lead to would mean, thanks to can cause ...

e.g. *Higher temperatures will lead to a lack of snow for skiing.*



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5. Design a problem tree



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6. Read about the situation and follow the steps

The year is 2035. Humanity is united in its fight against global heating and environmental destruction. What changes will the world of sport need to make to be part of the solution?

- 1 Your group is the organising committee of a major sporting championship. Agree on a sport and championship you would like to represent.
- 2 Use your problem tree to identify environmental problems, and causes of those problems, created by your sport and your event.
- 3 Hold a meeting to identify possible ways of reducing the carbon footprint and environmental impact of your sport and event. Propose five action steps that you will take.
- 4 Be prepared to present your actions steps.



Endangered animals



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