

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK

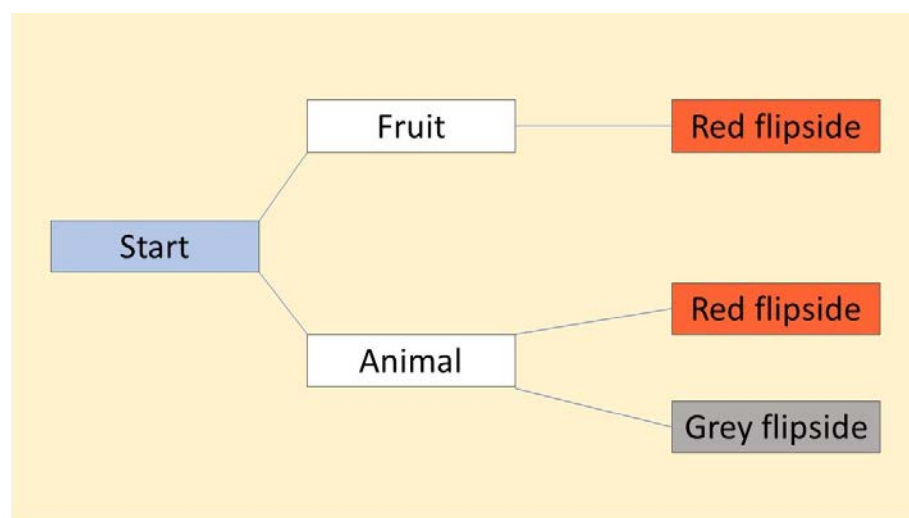


Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF) within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 5 - Snippet 115

Was it easy or difficult to find out how you can determine whether the rule is true or false?

The correct answer is cards 1 and 4. Using the tree diagram, you may reason as follows:



Card 1: Mango is a fruit. So the colour of the flipside needs to be red, if the rule (*If a card has the name of a fruit printed on one side, then it has the colour red on the other side*) is true. Turn the card! If the flipside's colour is not red, you have disproved the rule.

Card 2: Bird is an animal. The rule doesn't say anything about animals. So don't turn the card, as the flipside's colour won't tell you anything about the truth of the rule.

Card 3: The card is red. So the card could have the name of a fruit on the flipside and the rule would be true. But it could also have the name of an animal on it and the rule would still be true. So don't turn the card.

Card 4: The card is grey. If the name on the other side is a fruit, the rule would be false, since it says that each fruit card is red. So turn the card! If the flipside shows the name of a fruit, you can conclude that the rule is false.