



# 5 WHYS STRATEGY

This technique can be used during the 'Spot a problem' Level 2 of Project Firestorm, to help identify challenges students can work on during Level 3 'Consider solutions'.

It is intended to challenge assumptions and enhance the 'define' stage, by working through a problem systematically to identify a root cause, for which a solution can be sought.

An example is provided here, but students can be encouraged to work through any problem they initially make assumptions about.

## Example problem (assumption)

**People died in a bush fire because the RFS did not come quickly enough.**

## Example sequence of 'Whys'

- 1. Why didn't the RFS come quickly enough?**  
Because they could not get through the traffic.
- 2. Why couldn't they get through the traffic?**  
Because too many other people were on the road.
- 3. Why were too many other people were on the road?**  
Because they left just as the fire arrived.
- 4. Why did so many leave just as the fire arrived?**  
Because they became frightened and panicked.
- 5. Why did they become frightened and panic?**  
Because they did not prepare their properties adequately and/or have a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

## Real essence of the example problem

People died in a bush fire because they did not prepare their properties and/or have a Bush Fire Survival Plan in place.

As such, a totally different solution is required to the original assumed problem.



Level 2  
**LESSON GUIDE**



This lesson guide courtesy of St Ives North Public School.

