

## Lotus Blossom

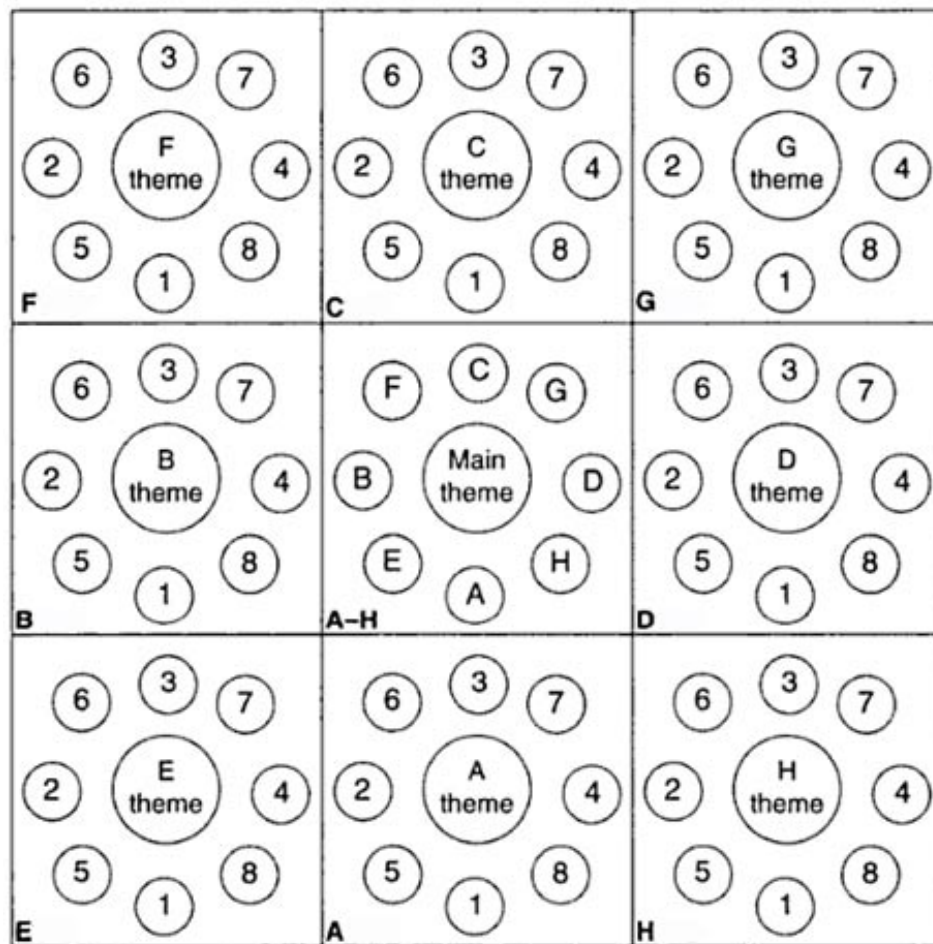
**Aim:**

To find the root causes of the problem/issue in resemblance of peeling of the petals of the lotus blossom flower in which each petal opens another one underneath.

**The process:**

The problem or issue (main theme) is written in a circle in the middle of the flipchart paper. The group is suggested to find the main causes of the problem/obstacles preventing to solve or deal with an issue. It is important that the group would agree on the 8 main causes/obstacles. These 8 main causes are written in circles around the main problem like satellites.

Each of the 8 main causes/obstacles are written in the middle of separate flipcharts and became the main cause/obstacle. The participants are asked to form 8 groups to work with one of the cause/obstacle and to define 8 causes of the main cause. As the result the whole group finds 64 root causes of the main problem/issue which are mostly interconnected.



After this process it is possible to continue working with root causes to develop a strategy for further steps.

The method originates from Japan. The references may be found in:

**Michalko M.** (2006) *Thinkertoys: a handbook of creative thinking techniques*, Ten Speed Press  
**Proctor T.** (2005) *Creative problem solving for Managers: developing skills for decision making and innovations*, Routledge.  
**Sloane P.** (2003), *The leaders Guide to lateral thinking skills: unlocking the creativity and innovations in you and your team*, Kogan Page, London