



What “Should We” Do? Reflecting on a big family decision

Please return this sheet by: _____

Hello, Classroom Families!

Very soon we are going to use all of the wonderings and observations you have helped us collect to ask questions called “Should We” questions. To help us learn more about “Should We” questions, we are keeping track of different decisions we make at school and reflecting on how we make them.

Activity Purpose: To help us with this, we want to learn from you about a big family decision you have made, and how you went about making that decision. Please pick a decision and then answer some questions about that decision in the table we made for you. There is an example on the next page so you can see what we want you to do.

What you can do to support learning:

- Compare and contrast different decisions you and your family have made to uncover different knowledge, goals, and values involved in making decisions.
- Consider times when you’ve answered the same “Should we” question in a different way. Explore why that happened. Some examples: deciding what produce you buy at the grocery store and how the seasons make different fruits and vegetables available or deciding to drive, take public transportation or walk.
- This is an opportunity to share your family’s histories and values. You might also explore a familial or cultural practice or decision you make in the same way as previous generations in your family.

Example Decision

Big family decision or event. *Having grandpa move in with us.*

How did the need to make the decision come to be? What led up to it?	What values guided your decision?	How did the place you were when you made this decision impact it?	What were the different options considered? Why was this the best decision to make?	Who else was impacted by the decision and how?	How did the decision impact you in the future? What did it change in your life?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grandpa was getting old and needed help doing his daily things. Grandpa was feeling lonely because grandma passed away. Parents were worried about him and so were our aunties and uncles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family responsibilities are very important to us. Being kind and taking care of elders is important. Having multiple generations in one house strengthens our identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We had enough extra space so grandpa could have a room of his own. We lived far enough away from him that daily trips to check on him and help him was expensive, time consuming, and used too much gas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We considered different family members grandpa could go live with. We considered having grandpa move closer to us so he could keep his own place. We considered a place where grandpa would live with other people his own age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our aunties, uncles and cousins because they come to our house more but they have to travel further to see him. Grandpa used to visit with neighbors in his old neighborhood and he can't anymore. They miss him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grandpa is a part of our everyday life and he is happier. We hear stories about his life. We have a garden now and we compost our food and leaf litter. We spend more money on & eat different foods. Our energy use has increased. We keep our toys off the floor more so grandpa won't trip.
What data and evidence was informing your thinking? We knew about life span data, we examined our energy use, we thought about our gas use and travel time.					
How did the natural world shape this decision or is impacted by this decision? We didn't really think about this when we decided. We realize though that now grandpa has more places to walk but also our energy impacts are different. Also our food and water consumption is different. Grandpa also notices birds and plants more than we did so we pay attention more too.					



Family Name: _____

An Example of a Big Decision Your Family Has Made

Big decision or event that has impacted your family.						
How did the need to make the decision come to be? What led up to it?	What values guided your decision?	How did the place you were or lived when you made this decision impact it?	How does the natural world impact this decision? How is the natural world impacted by this decision?	What options were considered? Why was this the best decision to make?	Who else was impacted by the decision and how?	How did the decision impact you in the future? What did it change in your life?
What data and evidence was informing your thinking? There are many different ways to engage with data and evidence. Not all evidence is the same. Making sure to engage with multiple forms of data and evidence is important (for example, collecting temperature data but also interviewing a community member)						
How does power and historicity shape this decision? Ethical decision making requires that we must all carefully consider how powered dynamics and historicity shape socio-ecological phenomena as well as our decisions, and the impacts our decisions will have for different peoples and places. Decision making that fails to this enables the perpetuation of unjust systems.						