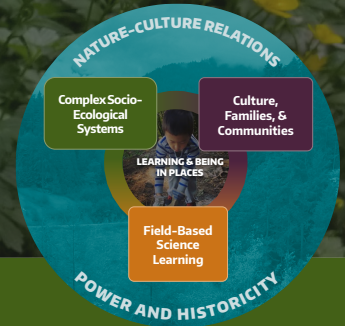




Family Science Learning Engagement



LE 10.B Making & Sharing Our Ethical Decisions

Activity Purpose

Now that you've made a decision about your "Should We" question, your decision becomes much more powerful when you share it with others! In this activity, you'll decide on some ways to share your decision, why you think the decision is important, and what you hope to accomplish.

Activity Overview

This activity has 2 parts.

- » **Part 1:** Review your decision about your "Should We" question.
- » **Part 2:** Decide what and how to share your decision with others and do it!



What can
you do to
support
learning?

- » 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.
- » There are many ways that you can share your decisions and recommendations: making a video, using social media, making a flyer, writing a letter to a city councilperson, etc. Encourage the family to think broadly about ways to share your decisions!
- » Decisions and recommendations are more powerful when people feel a sense of "collective agency". Encourage the family to think broadly about who to share with and why.

Connecting with other families

Decisions are always more powerful when you can gather others in your community to share your decision. This can start with sharing with others in your family, apartment building, cultural community, faith community, or school, amongst many other possibilities. Exploring possible decisions and sharing your decisions with other families in your community will also help you better understand who you will affect with your decisions, and how you can make decisions that are beneficial to the most humans and more-than-humans in your community!

Disciplinary Core Ideas and Important Phenomena

"Engaging in the practices of science helps students understand how scientific knowledge develops; such direct involvement gives them an appreciation of the wide range of approaches that are used to investigate, model, and explain the world." (NRC Framework 2012, p. 42)

Science Practices Emphasized

- Constructing explanations
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Key Ideas & practices

Ethical deliberation and decision-making

Making decisions is complicated! Human communities have always made socio-ecological decisions. From choices about what to eat, where to live, how to get around, to whether water is safe to drink, among many others. These choices are shaped by our values and cultural practices. The socio-ecological decisions we make are so important because we need to take responsibility for how our decisions impact the systems we live in, and the futures we imagine for our communities as well as others.

Communicating scientific information

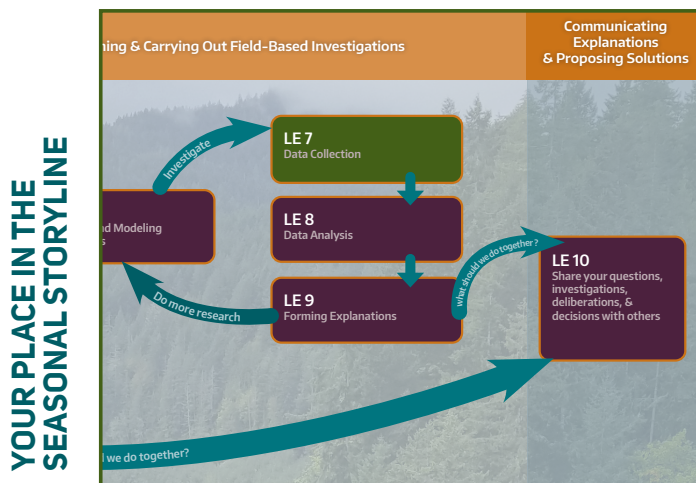
Communicating information is a skill that takes practice! When you communicate about scientific information, it's important to communicate not only what you found from your investigations and research, but also your **evidence** (from your data analysis that can back up what you say). Sometimes you are telling people something that they might disagree with, or sometimes you are telling people something that they already know and agree with. Having evidence and reasons for your decisions and recommendations will be important no matter who you communicate with.

CONNECT TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Learning Engagement 9.A: Connecting back to our "Should We" questions
- Learning Engagement 9.B: Returning to our models to ask more questions
- Learning Engagement 10.A: Making decisions around our "Should We" questions

LEARNING IN PLACES FRAMEWORKS TO CONSIDER

- Relationships in socio-ecological systems
- Socio-Ecological Decision-Making and Ethical Deliberation



Making & Sharing Our Ethical Decisions

Now that you have made a decision about your “Should We” question, it’s time to share that decision with others! This tool will help you plan out how you want to share what is important to you about your question, your findings, and your decision. This is also an opportunity to decide if you want to invite others to make the same decision as you have and why you think its important to consider. Some possible groups of people to share with are:

1. Other family members in your own family
2. Neighbors--in your apartment building, on your block
3. Families from your school, your cultural community or your faith community
4. Other community members--possibly even the people who you interviewed as part of your research in LE7
5. On social media to your friend/school/community groups

There are also many ways to share what you’ve learned and what decisions you’ve made! You could make art, a poster, a video, an animation or cartoon. You could create a game, write a song, write a letter, talk to people over the computer or phone. You could decide to have conversations with people every opportunity you get, like the next time your family has people over to your house. You could make a presentation at school, invite community members to all talk about this issue at your community center or library--there are so many options! The important thing about sharing your decision and your evidence for your decision is that you share your ideas with others about why your decision matters and what you are trying to accomplish. Be sure to share how you are changing the way you live. You may also want to encourage others to also make a similar decision as your family or at least to consider their decisions. You may want to invite others to commit to changing how they live. As you decide these things, consider how to communicate the role of power in your decisions and how your decisions involve and impact others - human and other-than-human.

For this activity, have your LE10.A tool ready, as you’ll use that as a basis for planning how you will share your “Should We” question and your family’s decision.



Preparing to share

Here are some steps you can take in your planning about what and how to share and communicate about your decisions

Step 1: Decide on what the **important idea or message** is that you want to communicate. Why does this matter to you and why do you think it should matter to other people? *This should be based on your findings from your investigation including your evidence, and your family's deliberations and discussions about your decision.*

- What was your “should we” question and why is it important?
- How does your questions connect to your families practices and history?
- What was your decision? Why?
- What evidence do you have that this is probably a good decision (and for whom and why)?
- How did you consider issues of power and historicity as you deliberated about your decision?
- What are you going to do now?
What changes in the way your family lives are you making?
- How does your decision impact and involve others?
- What new questions do you have that you might want to investigate and why?

Step 2: Decide **why** you are telling others about this. What do you hope others will learn? Do you want them to change something?

Step 3: What **format** do you want this to take? *Decide **how** you want to share about this. It could be that this changes depending on **whom** you're talking with, what message(s) you want them to hear, and what changes you are hoping they will make.*

Step 4: Do it! Make something to support your conversation with others! You could make a poster or video, write a song, make a phone or video call, post on social media! There are so many ways you can come up with to share with others. It's not important to get it perfect, it's just important to share with others and encourage them to ask questions, deliberate, and make change!

