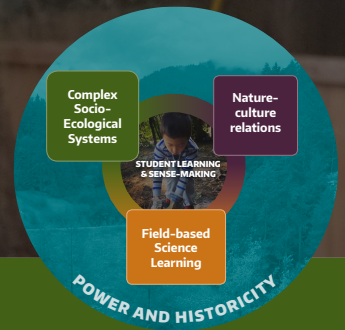




Family Science Learning Engagement



LE 3.D Taking a Focused Walk Together: Human Decision Making

Activity Purpose

Take a walk together to observe signs of human decision-making. Humans have had, and will continue to have, important relationships that shape places and relationships. Thinking about how and why humans interact with the natural world helps us to think deeper about possible futures. Humans make a lot of decisions for a variety of reasons that impact the natural world. What impacts have those decisions had?

Activity Overview

- Use the activity sheet to guide your thinking while you walk. You can copy the sheet on a piece of paper or try using a journal to collect your observations over time.
- Look for something interesting you notice about human decision making and draw or write what you see.
- If any new questions come up, write them down and come back to them later.
- **Extension ideas:** Before you go out on your walk, explore your outdoor living space. Ask questions about why or how humans have made the choices they made. For example, why is this sidewalk here? What happened as a result? Why did someone put up a bird feeder? How does that decision impact other species?



What can you do to support learning?

- » Do some research about who lived in the place before you came along. What kinds of choices did humans 1,000 years ago have to make? 100 years ago? 50 years ago? In many cases, you can find pictures of your neighborhood from 50 years ago. What decisions have humans made in the last 50 years to change how our neighborhood looks and who lives there? How has who lives here changed and why?
- » Imagine who might come after you and what they might think about the choices your family made. How will the decisions we make now impact the future? How do you know? Take a look at other animals, plants, water, and land and look for how they interact with the decisions humans have made. Why were these choices made and how are they impacting other species or kinds? Are these impacts helping, harming, or just neutral? What could be done differently?

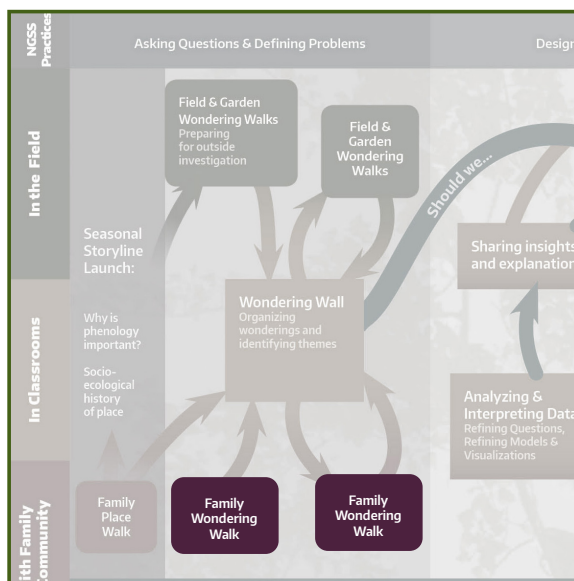
YOUR PLACE IN THE SEASONAL STORYLINE

Science Practices Emphasized

- ## CONNECT TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 3.A: Species, Kinds, and Behaviors
- 3.B: Relationships
- 3.C: Places, Lands and Waters
- 3.E: Thinking Across Scales

- Complex Socio-ecological Systems Reasoning
- Socio-Ecological Deliberation & Decision Making
- Observation and Data Collection



Human Decision Making

Socio-ecological systems refer to the interactions between human systems and ecological systems. Humans are part of the natural world, and all of our systems (e.g. social, political, institutional) are always in relationship with ecological systems. Complex socio-ecological systems involve several space, time, and organizational scales.

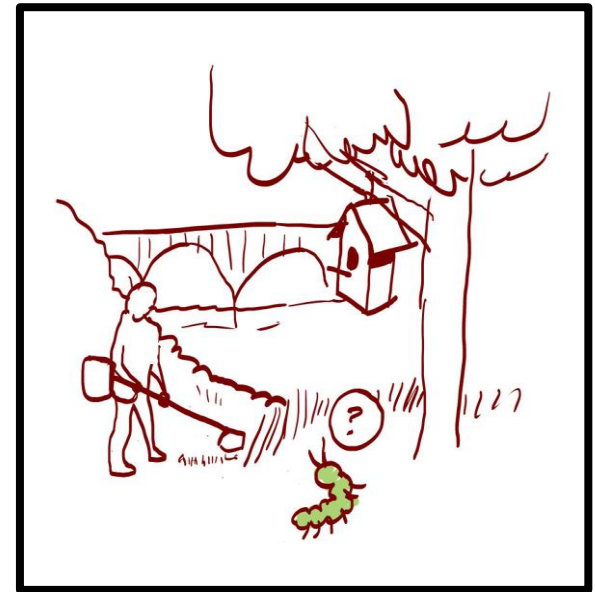
Human communities have always made socio-ecological decisions. From choices about what to eat, to where to live, how to get around, to what homes to build with what materials, amongst many others. These choices are shaped by our values and cultural practices and fundamentally reflect what we call construals of nature-culture relations.

- ESS3.A: Natural Resources
- ETS1.A :Defining & Delimiting Engineering Problems
- ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

LE 3.D Taking A Focused Walk Together: Human Decision Making

Humans have had, and will continue to have, important relationships that shape places and natural systems. Thinking about how and why humans interact with the natural world helps us to think deeper about possible futures. Some questions to consider while you walk with your family:

- *Look for places where humans have touched the land. Why do you think these choices were made and how might they be impacting other species or kinds?*
- *Are these impacts helping, harming, or just neutral? What could be done differently?*
- *What kinds of choices did humans 1,000 years ago have to make? 100 years ago? 50 years ago?*
- *How will the decisions we make now impact the future? How do you know?*



Draw or write down signs of human decision making. What do they make you wonder?

We noticed:



	We wonder: