Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *APES*

**The Tragedy of the Commons: A Simulation Exercise**

**Student Data Sheet**

**Part 1: Free Use of Common Resources**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Week #* | *# of Fish Taken* |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 |  |
| 5 |  |
| 6 |  |

1. What was the fate of the common resource during this part of the simulation? Why do you think this happened?
2. What was your family strategy for food collection during this part of the simulation? Why?
3. Do you think your family strategy for food collection had any impact on the fate of the resource? Why or why not?
4. Were you concerned about the resource collection of the other families? If so, what were your specific concerns?

**Part 2: Common vs. Private Resources**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Week #* | *# of Fish Taken**From Commons Area* | *# of Fish Taken From Private Pond* |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |

1. What was the fate of the common resource in this part of the simulation? Was this the same fate as that of your private resource? Why were they the same or different?
2. What was your family strategy for resource collection during this part of the simulation? Why?
3. Do you think your family strategy for resource collection had any impact on the fate of the common resource? The private resource? Why or why not?

**Part 3: Common & Private Resources With Possible Internal Regulation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Week #* | *# of Fish Taken**From Commons Area* | *# of Fish Taken From Private Pond* |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |

1. What was the fate of the common resource in this part of the simulation? Was this the same fate as that of your private resource? Why were they the same or different?
2. Did you discuss resource collection strategies with other village families? Summarize any discussions or decisions you might have been involved in.
3. What was your family strategy for resource collection during this part of the simulation? Why?

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CONCLUSION QUESTIONS.

**Conclusion:**

1. Explain how use differs between publicly and privately owned resources.
2. Explain how social/legal/political constructs can affect consumption of public resources.
3. Assuming the same resource availability, what would have changed if the population of your village had been cut in half? What if the population of your village were doubled?
4. Explain Garrett Hardin’s Tragedy of the Commons and how this simulation illustrates this concept.