



Name: _____ #: _____

Team Building with Your Peers & Family Town Hall Meeting

Estimated Time: 60 – 90 minutes

Age range: 4th grade & up

What you need: paper, writing utensil, scissors, four or more participants

Background Information:

A Letter from the Misty Mountains Nature Park

Welcome to the Misty Mountains Nature Park. We are a privately-owned park located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in Northeastern California. We offer limited space for visitors. Please call ahead and make a reservation for one of our cabins. We try to minimize human impact by allowing small groups of people to enjoy this beautiful area. We believe in low impact activities in order to preserve a relatively untouched area. We encourage you to practice **Leave No Trace** while in the park. The park has many outdoor activities to offer including fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing.

There are six main locations in the park:

1. Lodge: check-in for information
2. Cabins: four beds in each cabin
3. Fish Lake: kayaking, canoeing, and fishing are permitted
 - a. See fishing regulations and permits at lodge
 - b. No motorboats allowed
4. Curvy Creek: fishing and camping is permitted
5. Misty Mountains: one trail is maintained for hikers
 - a. Camping is permitted
6. Pine Forest: wildlife viewing is permitted
 - a. Please do not disturb the animals
 - b. Please do not feed the animals
 - c. No flash photography

New Words

Leave No Trace is a practice where a person does not leave any sign or trace that they were somewhere in nature.

Perspective is a person's views on an issue which might affect their position in life.

Deforestation is the clearing or cutting down of trees.

Animal Displacement occurs when habitat is destroyed by human activities or natural disasters.

Impermeable Surfaces are human made surfaces that increase **run-off** and decrease water absorption into the ground.

Run-off is toxic or polluted water that empties into bodies of water.

Pollution is human made trash, debris, and waste that enters the environment.

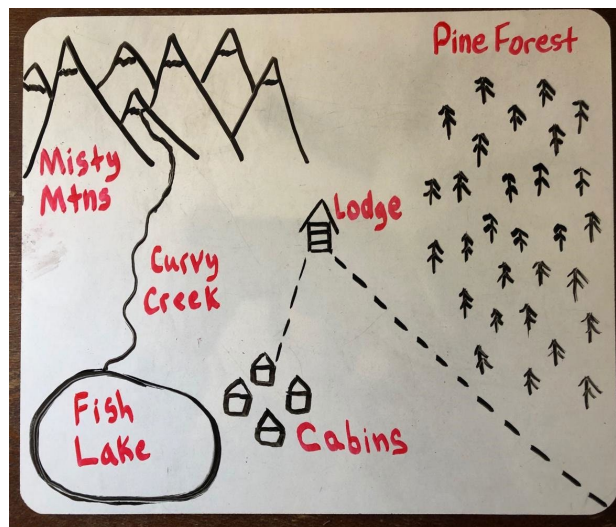
Environmental Impacts are impacts that affect the areas in and around something.

Over the years, the park has become one of the most popular vacation spots for outdoor enthusiasts because of the flourishing ecosystems. In the park you will likely see...

- Black Bears
- Foxes
- Coyotes
- Mountain Lions (rare)
- Bald Eagles
- Northern Pacific Rattlesnakes
- American White Pelicans
- Sandhill Cranes
- California Mule Deer

For fishing enthusiasts, Curvy Creek and Fish Lake produce trophy trout year round. You will likely catch...

- Rainbow Trout
- Brown Trout
- Cutthroat Trout
- Brook Trout



The image above shows the different areas of the park. Wildlife occupies all areas of the park; therefore, it is important to put all food and smelly items in a bear proof container. There are marked trails that connect all of the different areas. If you choose to stay with us here at Misty Mountain Nature Park we ask that you immerse yourself in all of the natural areas we have to offer!

A Letter from the Mountain Top Development Company

Hello! We are Mountain Top Development Company. We operate in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in Northeastern California. We specialize in building mountain resorts where we mix entertainment and the great outdoors into one package. Vacationers can find themselves relaxing in our luxury housing developments while getting the best views of a California sunset. We offer multiple activities which include...

- Skiing
- Boating
- Shopping
- Fishing

We are looking to purchase land to build a resort that will most likely open within two years. We have narrowed our search to the Misty Mountain Nature Park. We plan to create up to 100 jobs for local residents. There will be many benefits from the building of this resort which include...

- Bringing tourist revenue to local areas
- Creating jobs
- Bringing modern infrastructure to a relatively untouched area
- Boosting the local economy
- Bringing in outside investors



The image above shows the layout of the park. The Pine Forest and the areas around Fish Lake will be cleared for housing developments. Forest will also be cleared for ski slopes on the Misty Mountains. The shopping strip will include a grocery store, a movie theatre, restaurants, and clothing outlets.



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Scenario

The owner of the Misty Mountain Nature Park (MMNP) is looking to retire this year, and as a result, the park is going up for sale. The town of Misty Mountain is looking to purchase the land and continue running the nature park. The Mountain Top Development Company (MTDC) is also looking to purchase the land and build a resort. The two entities have decided to hold a town hall meeting and cast a vote amongst the people of Misty Mountain. Local companies, clubs, interest groups, and agencies will have the most weight in during this town hall meeting.

Local Companies for the resort

- Timber company
- Mulch company
- Construction company
- Ski shop

Local Clubs for the resort

- Ski club
- Boating club

Local Companies against the resort

- Grocery store
- Clothing store
- Movie theatre
- Restaurants

Local Clubs against the resort

- Sierra club
- Photography club
- Fishing club
- Birding club
- Hiking club
- Wildlife club

Interest Groups against the resort

- Outdoor education
- Senior citizens retreat

Agencies against the resort

- Fish and game
- Forest service
- Wildfire service



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Things to consider before forming an argument

- Deforestation
- Animal displacement
- Impermeable surfaces
- Pollution
- Money
- Jobs
- Entertainment
- Tourism

It's time to hold a town hall meeting! Follow the instructions on the next page to get started.

Town Hall Meeting Activity

Instructions:

It is time to hold the town hall meeting. This meeting will decide whether or not the resort will be built or the nature park will remain the same with new ownership. There will be different positions during this meeting.

1. First you must designate one person to be the town hall judge. This person will hear out everyone's argument as to why they are for or against the park.
2. The other positions are the companies, clubs, interest groups and agencies that are either for the resort or against the resort. Present the list of groups to your family or friends. Allow each person to choose two groups, one group that is for the resort, and one group that is against the resort.
3. Once everyone has chosen their groups, write the groups down on a piece of paper, cut them out, and place them in a bowl.
4. Now, have each person blindly pick one piece of paper out of the bowl. Once everyone has a group, they must form an argument from their **perspective**, arguing either in favor or against selling the land to the development company.
5. Start by allowing one person 5 to 10 minutes to present their group's argument. Once they have presented their argument, leave 1-2 minutes for others to respond.
6. Repeat this process until every person (except the judge) has presented.
7. Once everyone has presented their argument, the judge should ask all groups to close their eyes for a blind vote. Each person who is in favor of development will raise their hand. Those who are against development will keep their hands down.
8. The judge will tally the results. If most of the townspeople voted in favor of development, the land will be sold to MTDC. If most of the townspeople voted against development, the town of Misty Mountain will purchase the land and the Misty Mountains Nature Park will continue their business, as usual.

If there is a tie—meaning that an equal number of townspeople voted for and against development—the judge should allow an additional 20 minutes for individuals to represent their groups, in an effort to convince one of the groups to change its vote.



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Consider the following questions:

How does the final decision affect different groups?

If the final decision is to build the resort, what environmental impacts might occur?

Which group or groups from the list above might benefit the most from the resort not being built? Why?

Now it's time to reflect on our experiences! See the reflection activity on the next page.

Junk Drawer Debrief

Here at Sierra Nevada Journeys, we often discuss our thoughts and feelings following an activity. Debriefing is a good way to analyze the strategy and purpose of the activity with your friends and family.

Instructions:

1. Find a junk drawer in your house and grab a handful of items. Get as many items as there are people.
2. Circle up and place the items in the middle of the circle.
3. Take a minute to look at the items and then pick one that you think relates to the way you feel, your thoughts, the strategy or the purpose of the activity.
4. Once everyone has their item, go around the circle and give everyone the space to speak about their experience and item.
5. Once everyone has spoken, try to reach a conclusion about the main point of the activity.



Example: I think the rock represents forming a solid argument and sticking with it.

Consider the following questions:

Do you think the town hall activity is a good way to make major decisions? Why or why not?

Do you think building a resort would be a positive thing for the local economy (market)? Why or why not?

Do you think it is important to accept other people's perspectives? Why or why not?
