




Exercise Two: Charades: Essential Uses of Land

 **Time: 10 - 15 minutes**

Objective

This exercise is designed to be an active brainstorming session to facilitate discussion on the essential uses and the importance of land. It is a framing exercise to lay the foundation for the exercises that come later in this workshop.

Background

Charades is a word guessing and acting game in which one person “acts out” a phrase without speaking, while others try to guess what the phrase is. The idea is to use physical rather than verbal language to convey meaning to another party. The objective is to guess the phrase as quickly as possible. This game of Charades is centered on phrases that have to do with the uses of land. Many people rarely stop to think about their relationship to the land and, thus, feel alienated from it. The goal here is to portray the different uses of land and the importance of land in actions without speaking.

Materials needed

- A sheet of large butcher paper
- Tape
- Markers
- Stopwatch or other timing device
- Notepad
- Pencil

Preparation

- Post a sheet of butcher paper in a central part of the room.
- Write down three essential uses of land on three separate slips of paper. Fold the slips of paper in half. Examples: Roads, public parks, food, farming, cultural practices, water, medicinal.



Exercise Two, continued

Procedure

1. Explain the game of charades as described above to workshop participants.
2. Ask for three volunteers. The three volunteers should come to the front of the room.
3. Give each volunteer one of the slips of paper on which you've written an essential use of the land.
4. One by one, ask the volunteers to act out the phrase on their slip of paper. Give each volunteer thirty seconds of prep time. And up to sixty seconds to act out the phrase.
5. The other workshop participants will try to guess what the volunteers are acting out while the facilitator writes down relevant guesses. If no one guesses in the allotted time, the volunteer should reveal what s/he was trying to act out.
6. Time permitting, after the first three volunteers have gone, ask for more volunteers to act out phrases of their own.
7. The facilitator should point out the guessed phrases and then ask participants to brainstorm other ways land is important. Write these down as well.

Closing

Reiterate that land plays many essential functions in our lives. Depending on one's social position, some of these functions may be easily taken for granted or impossible to take for granted. Remind participants that throughout this workshop we are going to be exploring some essential functions of land. We are going to emphasize the importance of access to land for food production and for rural livelihoods around the world.