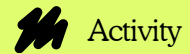


# Growing Connections



*This game is an opportunity to support partnerships between diverse people working on agriculture- or food-related projects. As we come from various backgrounds, clearly identifying people's similarities and differences in work priorities aids in mutual understanding and workflow. Examples of how and when to use it include partnership building exercises, identifying goals for a project, and at workshops that bring people with different backgrounds and lived experiences together.*

*Bring your introspective awareness, a dose of patience for yourself and others, a couple doses of compassion for yourself and others, and a touch of lightheartedness.*

*First, set "rules" or "community guidelines". A suggested community guideline is: "All participants will strive for respectful, reciprocal, and ethical interactions." Next, select a Scenario and read it together.*

*Then select a Topic together. Answer the topic's questions by yourself, followed by sharing your responses with other game participants. Reflect on how your answers are similar and different.*

# Scenarios

## Agricultural Imbalance

Think of a landscape that seems out-of-balance due to agricultural practices. The imbalance could be due to the use of synthetic chemicals, the introduction of non-native species, related soil health issues, human engagement on the land, or other factors that have greatly changed the landscape in recent (10-150 years) years.

You care deeply about this landscape. You are asked to support work to bring balance back to this landscape. You rely on your personal passions, professional background, and other relevant experiences to inform how you support this work.

## Four Sisters

You are asked by a Tribal nation to help steward culturally important seeds and plants. You have land and resources available to do this, and this opportunity really intrigues you.

## Open Meadow

You're in an open meadow at sunrise. The place holds rich cultural history, beautiful biodiversity, and rich memory for you. A landscape historically abundant with cultural foods of various tribes is currently being overgrown by invasive grasses. Tribal citizens are working to reclaim and restore this place. You are asked by a Tribal Nation to support this work.

# Topics & Questions

Select one topic at a time. Give a brief response to the topic's set of questions.

## Topic

## Questions

### Human Relationships to Land

1. What does reciprocity mean to you in this scenario?
2. If you had access to all necessary resources, the power of decision-making, boundless creativity, and plenty of time, how would you engage with this scenario?
3. How would those actions from #2 transform the landscape?
4. Why are these desired results important to you?
5. Who benefits (humans and other land-based beings like plants, insects, etc.) from this scenario?
6. Are there risks of harm in this scenario?

### Human-to-Human Relationships

1. Who are the different people impacted by the landscape's imbalance?
2. In what ways do the impacts differ among those people?
3. What impacts are similar across the different people?

### Being in Partnership

1. How could you work meaningfully with others to create better balance at this place?
2. What does a healthy partnership between you and others (who also care about this place) mean in this circumstance?
3. What do you miss most about the landscape before it became imbalanced (this can be experientially based, meaning you've experienced it, or it can be memory-based, meaning you've heard stories about it)?
4. Detail what it is you miss: is it a sight, a smell, a feeling, a sound?