**SETTING UP YOUR PLANETARY SOCIETY**

**Characters: (Choose 11)**

1. Farmer
2. Doctor (male)
3. Doctor’s pregnant wife (female)
4. Politician
5. Police Officer
6. Paleontologist
7. Plumber
8. Lawyer
9. Veterinarian
10. Construction Worker
11. Teacher
12. Pilot
13. Chef
14. Bestselling Author
15. CFL Player
16. Meteorologist
17. Journalist
18. Hunting Instructor
19. Daycare Worker
20. Computer Technician

**Economic Plan**

What will be your economic and/or socioeconomic goals? Choose only most important ones, recognizing trade-offs.

Overall, what will be produced? How will it be produced? For whom will it be produced? Who will make those decisions (government, individuals or a mix)?

How will your island government be involved in the economy?

Directions: Use answers to "Economic Plan" to determine the following. Make sure your responses are consistent with your overall plan.

**Land/Distribution/Location**

Will the land be privately owned? If so, who gets it and how?

Should the land be owned by everyone together?

Should you divide it up and distribute it?

If so, should it be divided equally? What constitutes equal?

Where on the island should you live? (Draw this on map.)

Should you consider the needs of the environment? How?

Who has rights to the water? How will these be provided for?

**Labor**

What work must be done?

List the kinds of jobs required to sustain the lifestyle you desire.

Who should do these jobs?

What about the jobs that nobody likes?

Does each person just have one job or many?

**Land**

What natural resources will be used to produce goods?

Will there be rules governing use of natural resources? Why or why not? If yes, which?

**Capital**

What kind of capital (tools, machines, etc.) will be used to produce goods? How will this capital be attained?

**Basic Needs**

Are there some basic needs that you believe should be guaranteed for

all? If so, what are they? Or do you think that individuals should

secure their needs by themselves?

Create a name for your team that reflects the type of system you have developed.

**Short Term Survival**

* First, make a list of the five most important steps to put in place that will ensure your survival for the first few months. What are the most immediate problems and worries that you'll face?

**Building a better society**

Now that you've taken the steps necessary to help the group survive, it's time to determine what are the core beliefs on which you will build your new (better) society.

1. Draft a Code of Rules that will be used to govern your "society"
   * Make a list of the 10 most important rules
   * Determine a set of consequences and punishments for breaking each of the rules above
2. Make a list of the five most important rights that all members of your society should be guaranteed
3. Are there going to be any difficulties in enforcing the rules from A while preserving the rights established in B? Explain.
4. Make a list of *5 Social Norms* that people should not violate– these are behaviours that, while not against the laws listed in A, are still generally frowned upon. (Norms tend to change over time. For example, talking on cell phones in public used to be frowned upon. They also vary from culture to culture. For example, in some places it is common to eat with your hands while in others this is considered icky.)

**STEP 3: Keeping Things Running Smoothly**

Now that you've created a set of guidelines and for daily living in your new society, it is important to determine how best to enforce and maintain these rules. Otherwise, all your clever ideas and noble intentions will go for naught as your new society descends into anarchy. Answer each of the following questions, keeping in mind the rules and rights that you've established already:

* Who will be in charge?  How will leaders be chosen?  Will you have a leader?
* How will rules be enforced? Who will enforce the punishments?
* What happens to people who keep breaking the rules?
* What process will you put in place to change or add new rules

Questions to guide discussion:

1. How should decisions be made on the planet, about how to find or build shelter, about how to find food?

2. What if there are mean, weak, or particularly skilled/smart people in your group? What will happen to them? Should strong people be able to take what they want from weak people? Who will stop them?

3. What if someone takes something from someone else? How are people protected? I.e. is it every person for him or herself, or does someone watch out for others?

4. Do you think you need a government for your planet? Why? What will happen if no one is in charge or responsible for decision making?

5. What traits or characteristics of basic human nature do you need to think about in organizing how your island will be run?

6. What form of government would you select for your planet? Consider: democracy, monarchy, oligarchy, rule by consensus, anarchy.

**STEP TWO**: Select a spokesperson for your group to briefly explain the type of government you selected and defend your reasons for why you made that choice. (5 minutes) Congratulations! You just made a social contract.