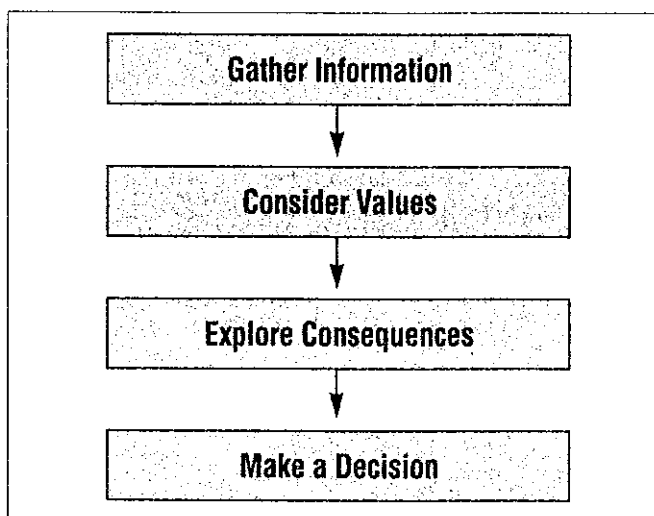


**I N V E S T I G A T I O N****1.2****HOW DO YOU DECIDE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?**

You make hundreds of decisions every day. Some of them are complicated, but many of them are quite simple, such as what to wear or what to eat for lunch. Deciding what to do about an environmental issue can be among the most difficult decisions to make. Therefore, it helps to go through a formal analysis of the issue before making a decision. In this Investigation, you will use the four-step decision-making model you learned about in Chapter 1 to analyze a local environmental problem and reach a decision about it.

A four-step  
decision-  
making model

**MATERIALS**

newspapers, magazines, and other publications containing information about local environmental issues

**GATHER INFORMATION**

1. Work with your team to find out about environmental issues currently being debated in your area. Choose one local issue to evaluate. For example, you could evaluate whether a particular law should be passed or whether a particular program should be funded. State the issue you choose.

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2. Gather information about your issue. Summarize important facts below.

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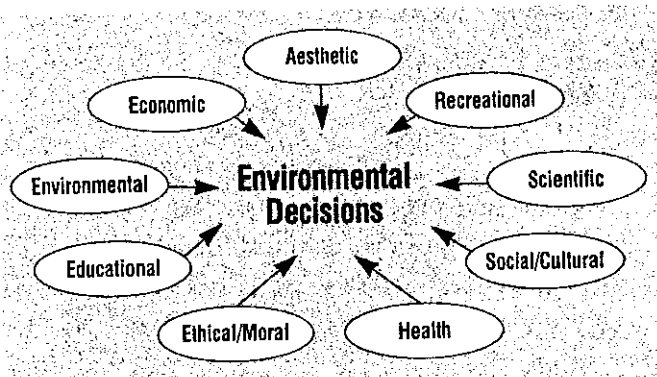
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What other values, besides those shown here, might affect your decision on a local environmental issue?

## CONSIDER VALUES

3. Working on your own, review the values given in the figure at left. (These values are defined in Figure 1-24 on page 20 of your textbook.) Which values do you think apply most directly to the local environmental issue you are considering? Are there any other values, not listed here, that you believe will help you make a decision about the issue?

Choose at least four values that you want to consider in making your decision. Enter those values in the top row of the chart below. If you want to consider more than four values, copy the chart onto a separate sheet of paper to record the additional values.

Consequences	Values			
Positive short-term consequences				
Negative short-term consequences				
Positive long-term consequences				
Negative long-term consequences				

## INVESTIGATION 1.2 Cont.

### EXPLORE CONSEQUENCES AND MAKE A DECISION

4. Continue working independently. For each value you listed at the top of your chart, think carefully about the short- and long-term consequences of the specified course of action. Complete your chart, filling in the spaces with the consequences for each value. (If you run out of space, continue on a separate sheet of paper.)
5. Thoroughly consider all of the consequences you have recorded on your chart. Evaluate how important each consequence is. After thoughtful evaluation, what course of action would you choose to take to address the environmental issue you stated in step 1?

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### ANALYZE YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

6. In your evaluation, did you consider short-term consequences or long-term consequences to be more important? Why?

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7. Which value(s) had the greatest influence on your final decision? Why?

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### CONFLICT OR CONSENSUS?

8. Compare your decision-making chart with your team members' charts. After seeing their charts, do you want to revise your chart? What would you change?

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9. Did the values each team member considered make a difference in the decision he or she reached? Explain.

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### **WORK TOWARD CONSENSUS**

10. With your team, try to reach a mutually agreeable solution to the environmental problem you studied. First let each team member explain the reasons for his or her decision. Then try to identify points on which you agree, and build on them to develop a compromise or alternative solution that is agreeable to all team members. State the consensus solution here.

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11. When a final decision is reached, is it acceptable to everyone? If so, what compromises or arguments convinced everyone to accept it? If not, what values could not be accommodated to everyone's satisfaction?

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