

Social Scenario #3

Pesticides or Planet?

'I want to grow the best crops, but I don't know the best way to it'

Let's dive into a story about John, a farmer. After reading, chat with your friends and decide what John should do. Remember, there's no right or wrong answer, but you only have 1 hour to talk it out before sharing with the class!



Read the scenario below and help John decide.

John is a farmer, and he loves growing crops on his family's land. But he has a big problem. Bugs are eating his crops and the ones that do grow are not big enough. Some farmers nearby use a spray called pesticides to keep the bugs away and chemical fertilizers to help the crops grow bigger...and they're selling a lot of veggies because of it.

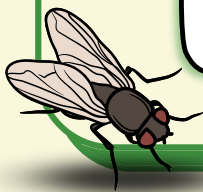
But John knows something. These sprays can be bad for the ground, the water, and even the air. They can also hurt helpful bugs and birds. John wonders if he should use the sprays to earn more money or find a different way to enhance his crops and sell them, even if it might mean earning less.

What do you think John should do? How can he decide between making more money and taking care of the Earth?

CONSIDERATION is when we can see the world through everyone's eyes.

The Insects

'We love visiting this area, it's where we lay our eggs but the air and soil is just too toxic for us to survive.'



His Family

'We would love to go on more holidays and buy a bigger house, but we need money to do these things.'



His Customers

'We want the biggest vegetables for the least money. We want value for money.'



These questions may help you make your decision!

- What happens to the land and water when farmers use these sprays too much?
- Do you know how farmers in other places deal with bugs?
- Are there other safe ways to keep bugs away from crops?
- Do you think people would like to buy veggies that don't use sprays?
- Would they pay a little more for them?
- Should there be rules about how much spray a farmer can use?
- How can John still sell lots of veggies without using harmful sprays?
- What happens if many farmers keep using these sprays all the time?
- Can science or new tools help John find a way to deal with the bugs?

key Vocabulary

farmer	sprays
pesticides	veggies
crops	organic
bugs	water
environment	earth

