**Trying Out Ecotourism – Student Instructions**

(Activity modified from Amazon Interactive’s “Ecotourism Game” <http://www.eduweb.com/ecotourism/eco1.html>)

**Introduction:** In this game, you will play the role of land owners in an **indigenous community** called the Quichua (pronounced “keh-choo-wa”). You will develop an ecotourism plan for your village. **Ecotourism** is a form of tourism. In ecotourism, tourists natural areas for vacations. Ecotourism is popular among people interested in **environmental conservation** and **sustainable development**. It is considered a way to save the rainforest. Ecotourism can also help undeveloped areas. Sometimes, ecotourism is unsuccessful. Many researchers study the impacts of ecotourism. In this game, you will develop an ecotourism project in the Amazon. Can you make ecotourism sustainable? Good luck!

**Materials:**

At your table you will find the following materials:

* Envelopes labeled with numbers between 1 and 11, and one labeled with a star (✰): Inside each envelope is a small sheet of paper with information about your progress in the game and a question about what you want to do next.
* Game board with 12 strips of green paper: The game board represents the rainforest surrounding your community. Each green strip of paper represents a portion of the area that remains forested.
* Poker chips: Each poker chip represents $100. The number of poker chips your team has at any time represents the amount of money made by a family in your community in one year.
* Score sheet: Use the score sheet to record your progress throughout the game. Check the boxes beside the decisions you make and write down the results of your decisions in the spaces provided.
* Vocabulary sheet: Use the vocabulary sheet to find definitions to words you are unfamiliar with. The words in the instructions and questions that are listed in **bold** are found on the sheet. ***(This sheet is under construction, along with envelope materials, and is forthcoming)***

**How to Play:**

1. To begin, open the starred (✰) envelope. Read the information inside and set up your game board according to the instructions inside. Also, collect the right number of poker chips to represent the money earned by a family in your village.
2. After you have set up your game board, open the first envelope. Follow the instructions inside. Choose one of the options given at the bottom of the page. Record your decision on the score sheet.
3. Take the envelope that corresponds to your decision and open it. Based on the instructions, change your game board and money supply to show the consequences of your decision. This will involve adding or removing green strips of paper to show the correct portion of rainforest still covered by trees.
4. Continue to make decisions and open new envelopes based on the choices you make.

The decisions you make throughout the game will determine how far you progress through the game, how much money you make and how much rainforest you are able to preserve.

**Winning the Game:** The game is won when you make the right choices about your ecotourism project so that families in your village have a stable income *and* the rainforest around your village is being maintained in a sustainable way.