

Development and Peace

The Land Game





CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR

**Development
and Peace**

The Land Game



Tasks

- Choose one or two people to organize the Land Game (i.e. gather materials, set up the game, run the game, facilitate discussion, etc.)

Aims of the Game

- ⇒ Increase awareness of the causes of landlessness, and role of social movements in keeping land
- ⇒ A fun way to kick off the Think Fast!

Equipment needed

- ⇒ A large room (gym or assembly hall)
- ⇒ One chair for each player and a floor mat or rug (about 4' x 4')
- ⇒ A roll of masking tape
- ⇒ One land card for every player
- ⇒ A set of coloured badges/labels (3 colours)

Preparation for the game

What is a Land Card?... A land card is a piece of paper taped to a chair used as a base for the players to run to. It also represents their piece of land, which they need to survive. How do you make a land card?.... It's simple!!! It is almost done for you. All you have to do is make some more double-sided photocopies of the land card pages enclosed in this section. There should be one land card for each player. Bright paper will make the cards more visible during the game.

Preparing the room

1. Place the chairs in a large circle at the centre of the room. Tape a land card on the back of each chair. Make sure the chairs aren't too close together.
2. Place the mat or rug in the corner of the room to represent the city. It should be small enough that all the players have to crush together to stay on it. This represents overcrowding in the shantytowns of developing countries.

How to play

A variation of musical chairs, the object of the game is to hold onto a piece of land as long as possible to avoid being sent to the city.

Before the game: each player takes a seat with a land card on it. The seats should be arranged in a large circle. Each player is given one of three identities (e.g. red, green or blue). The groups should be of similar size with each group being easily identifiable (perhaps different coloured badges).

Rules and introduction: The game leader introduces the rules and reads the introduction (below) to the players. The leader plays the part of a Land Grabber who steals the land from the players and sends them to the city.

Introduction (To be read to players in a severe and over dramatic way)

"Land is very important. Without land you cannot grow food, have a house, or live with dignity. All over the world people are losing their land and being forced to move to

the cities where every day is a struggle to survive. In this game you must try to hold on to your land and avoid being sent to the city. To lose land means to lose everything! ***Beware of the Land Grabber!!!***"

To Start the Game...

- 1.** The Land Grabber calls out the name of one of the groups e.g. RED! The respective players then have to run from their position to that of a fellow group member. In the meantime the Land Grabber steals one of the chairs leaving one of the reds without land.
- 2.** The Land Grabber then removes the land card, flips it over and reads out the fate of the player (one of the five scenarios on the back of the land card). They will then be sent to the city, or given another chance as the case may be!
- 3.** Some of the choices have a social movement option, as in the case of Senegalese and Nova Scotian fishers. This gives the player a second chance while demonstrating real actions that real people are taking. The Land Grabber can read out both the negative option and the second chance scenario and let other participants declare which one should be chosen, and then either ignore their advice or go with it.
- 4.** The Land Grabber holds on to the card and the chair remains out of the circle to signify there is less land for the poor to occupy. The Land Grabber should walk around the outside of the circle close to the land card/chair they intend to grab since there is a strong possibility that they might suffer terrible injuries if caught up in the rush for land!

Cheating: Players who don't change position or repeatedly swap with the same person are automatically sent to the city.

Favouritism encouraged: The Land Grabber may choose to call on one or two of the colours more frequently and favour the players of another colour by not calling that out as frequently. This can represent how some groups (indigenous people) often suffer greater injustice and deprivation than other groups (such as people of European descent). Also, when a player from the favoured group loses their chair, the Land Grabber could choose the option on the back of the Land Card that gives that person another chance.

Land Grab! When the Land Grabber shouts...Land Grab! all the players must run from their chair to any other chair. This can be done occasionally during the game to keep them on their toes.

After the Game

1) Debriefing

Ask those who were evicted from their land how they felt when their land got taken away. Ask those who had a second chance how they felt.

2) Follow Up Questions

Why do people lose their land? Who takes it? Is it fair? What is life like for them once they move to the city? Why do they want to stay on their land? What steps can they take to stay on their land?

THINK *just* 2000

<p>SCENARIOS</p> <p>1. You live in Rwanda. You hear that people in the next village have been attacked by soldiers . You are scared that they will do the same to your village. You become a refugee in a tent city in the neighbouring country of Zaire, where you depend on international relief.</p> <p>2. You are a member of a Senegalese family which has made a living from inland fishing for generations. Under agreements signed with the Senegalese national government, European trawlers are catching all the fish, leaving none for your family or community. Go to the city of Dakar where you do odd jobs on the street to survive.</p>	<p>OR:</p> <p>2a) You are a Senegalese fisher. You and your neighbours join the CNPS, a community organization of inland fishers, and a D&P partner. You find ways, with the help of CNPS organizers, of interest. Best of all, the Senegalese government responds to your pressure by to improve fishing safety, conserve local species, and get loans at reasonable rates protecting your inshore fishing rights during international treaty negotiations. You have another chance!</p>	<p>3. You live in a rainforest in Guatemala. A rich landowner has burnt down the part of the forest that you live in and is keeping cattle to make hamburgers for people in the USA. Move to Guatemala City where you work in a maquiladora earning \$1.60 a day sewing shirts for North Americans</p> <p>4. You are an Innu living in Labrador. The Canadian government has agreed with its NATO allies to use your hunting grounds for military test flights. The low level flights are destroying your community. Your community decides to challenge the Canadian government. Remain on your land.</p>
<p>SCENARIOS</p> <p>5. You are a tenant farmer in Mindanao in the Philippines. The local mayor has tricked your landlord into illegally selling your land to start a gold mine. You are forced to move to the city of Manila where you struggle to survive by scavenging at the city dump.</p> <p>OR:</p> <p>5a) Luckily for you, the Agri-Aqua Development Coalition, a Development and Peace partner, responds to your request for help with the services of a lawyer. She confirms that your community has first claim to the land. She will argue your case in court. Your whole com-munity resists the mayor's illegal efforts to evict you. You get another chance.</p>	<p>6. You are a Haitian who owns a small piece of land high in the mountains. You were forced to plant crops here because of the lack of land. A heavy rainfall has washed away your crops because the mountainside is too steep. Go to Port-au-Prince and earn money by shining shoes in the bus terminal.</p> <p>7. You are a Nova Scotia fisher whose family has made their living from small-boat fishing for generations. The federal minister responsible for the fisheries is about to make an announcement granting fishing privileges to large commercial trawlers, which will destroy your livelihood. Go to Toronto, and try to live on family benefits while you look for work.</p>	<p>OR:</p> <p>7a) You and your neighbours get together and form an organization of small-boat fishers. You occupy the offices of your local MP when the minister comes to town to make his announcement, getting national media exposure. The Minister decides to review the case. You get another chance.</p>
<p>SCENARIOS</p> <p>8. You are an Indonesian who owes a lot of money to a rich money lender. Your children have fallen sick and you are forced to sell your land to pay for medicines. Go to the city of Pandang where you sew \$100 Nike running shoes for less than \$1 a day.</p> <p>9. You are a Zimbabwean villager and have been forced to leave your land because the government has decided to build a huge dam where your village is. Move to the city of Harare where you earn \$12 per week by making Easter cards to sell on the street.</p>	<p>10. You are an indigenous villager in Brazil who lives in a rainforest. A logging company has bought your land so it can sell the wood to people in Europe. You needed the land to provide food for your family. Go to the city of Manaus where you wash car windshields for a living.</p> <p>11. You live in Brazil, where your family has eked a living from vacant land for many years. Now the owner, who has never even seen the land, evicts you. Go to the city of Brasilia where you earn \$6 per week shining shoes.</p>	<p>OR:</p> <p>11a) Fortunately, through a social movement called <i>Sem Terra</i>, organizers hear of your situation. They let you know that under the Brazilian constitution you have a legal right to idle land, as do all other landless. They bring in many more settlers to help you challenge the absentee landlord's claims. You have been given another chance.</p>

