

Social Studies Skills - Ethical Judgement

Name: _____

 What is Ethical Judgment? Ethical judgment is when you think carefully about what is right or wrong, and then make a choice that is fair, kind, and respectful to others.

 Why Is Ethical Judgment Important in Social Studies? Ethical judgment helps us think about what is **right or wrong** when we learn about **people, events, and decisions** in the world—both in the past and today.

 In Social Studies, It Helps Us:

1. **Understand Different Points of View**
 - People in history made tough choices. Ethical judgment helps us ask:
"Was that fair?" or "Was that the right thing to do?"
2. **Learn From Mistakes**
 - Some things that happened in the past (like unfair laws or treatment of groups) were wrong. We use ethical thinking to understand *why* and to do better in the future.
3. **Make Good Choices Today**
 - When we talk about current events (like helping others, protecting the planet, or solving problems), we need to think about what's fair, kind, and respectful.
4. **Stand Up for What's Right**
 - Social studies teaches us to be **active citizens**. Ethical judgment helps us speak up and make a difference in our communities.

 Should Wild Animals Be Kept in Zoos?

 Pros (Good Things About Zoos)

1. **Education**
 - People (especially kids!) can learn about animals they would never see in the wild.
2. **Protection from Extinction**
 - Some zoos help save endangered animals by keeping them safe and helping them have babies.
3. **Veterinary Care**
 - Animals in zoos get medical help if they're sick or hurt.
4. **Research**
 - Scientists can study animals closely to learn how to protect them in the wild.
5. **Public Awareness**
 - Seeing animals in real life can make people care more about wildlife and the environment.

 Cons (Problems with Zoos)

1. **Loss of Freedom**
 - Animals can't roam freely like they would in the wild. Some may feel bored or stressed.
2. **Small Spaces**
 - Many zoo enclosures are too small for large animals like elephants or big cats.
3. **Not All Zoos Are Good**
 - Some zoos don't take proper care of animals or only care about making money.
4. **Animals Can't Live Naturally**
 - They don't get to hunt, migrate, or live in family groups like they would in nature.
5. **It's Not Their Choice**
 - Animals didn't choose to be taken from the wild or bred in captivity.

 Ethical Thinking Questions:

1). Is it ever okay to keep wild animals in cages—even for a good reason?

2). Could there be a better way to protect animals?

Can educating people about animals in zoos make up for taking the animals away from their natural homes?

Is it okay for zoos to keep animals that are not endangered just for people's entertainment?
