



# The Game of Cambodian Life

This game challenges two to four “families” to try to cope with the economics of life as a typical family living in Cambodia today. It's suitable for schools, clubs and groups.

There are four handouts for the four “families”, and pages of coins and notes to cut out and use in the game.

All feedback and suggestions welcome. Please contact Chris on [info@edukid.org.uk](mailto:info@edukid.org.uk).

Have fun!!

# TEAM A

You are going to be making daily decisions for a typical family living in Cambodia today.

Your family contains :    2 adults  
   3 children aged 6, 5 and 3

You live :                        in the city

You earn :                        Both parents work so £3 per day

Each day you will receive your £3 and will then have to decide what to buy, based on the attached price list.

You will have to decide whether to spend your money on food and essentials, nice things and treats, or whether to save it for another day.

Each family member must eat enough food to live each day. If you do not manage to feed all members three days running, you will have to pay for the youngest child to visit a doctor (£5). If you cannot afford the doctor, your child will die.

In the box below, tick each day how many family members you feed and in the 'other' box, write down what else you spend your money on.

Day	Mum	Dad	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Other
One						
Two						
Three						
Four						
Five						
Six						



# TEAM C

You are going to be making daily decisions for a typical family living in Cambodia today.

Your family contains :    2 adults  
   2 children aged 6 and 5

You live :                            in the a village, 20 miles from the city

You earn :                            Both parents work for a farmer. They earn £5 about twice a month depending on how the crops are growing. They are also paid in crops when there are some. Some days they are paid nothing.

Each day you will receive your £'s or food and will then have to decide what to buy, based on the attached price list.

You will have to decide whether to spend your money on food and essentials, nice things and treats, or whether to save it for another day.

Each family member must eat enough food to live each day. If you do not manage to feed all members three days running, you will have to pay for the youngest child to visit a doctor (£5). If you cannot afford the doctor, your child will die.

In the box below, tick each day how many family members you feed and in the 'other' box, write down what else you spend your money on.

Day	Mum	Dad	Child 1	Child 2	Other
One					
Two					
Three					
Four					
Five					
Six					

# TEAM D

You are going to be making daily decisions for a typical family living in Cambodia

Your family contains : 1 adult  
3 children aged 6, 5 and 3

You live : in the a village, 20 miles from the city

You earn : The parent rents a rice field. After s/he has paid the rent, s/he sometimes manages to sell £2 worth of rice. Some days they are able to bring rice home for the family. Some days they can bring nothing.

Each day you will receive your £'s or food and will then have to decide what to buy, based on the attached price list.

You will have to decide whether to spend your money on food and essentials, nice things and treats, or whether to save it for another day.

Each family member must eat enough food to live each day. If you do not manage to feed all members three days running, you will have to pay for the youngest child to visit a doctor (£5). If you cannot afford the doctor, your child will die.

In the box below, tick each day how many family members you feed and in the 'other' box, write down what else you spend your money on.

Day	Parent	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Other
One					
Two					
Three					
Four					
Five					
Six					

## Cost of stuff.

Rice	30c per person	Trip to swimming pool	£5
Cinema	£10	Bus to the city	£3
Meat	£2 per person	Veggies / fruit	£1
Bar of chocolate	£1.50	Can of coke	£2
can of beer	£4	'New' clothes	£5 per piece
Second hand clothes	50c per piece	Toothbrush	50c
Doctors visit	£5	Medicine	£5

## Cost of school stuff.

*Flip flops	£1	*Pens and pencils	£3
*School uniform	£5	Test (3 times per year)	£2
*School books	£5	Exam (twice per year)	£5



## The game - how to play it!

This can be played with young people as teams or working individually. Depending on the abilities of the team/yp they may need input from helpers at least at the beginning. It can be played with less than 4 teams or yp but I haven't tried this and don't think the effects will be the same. Please experiment and let me know what works!

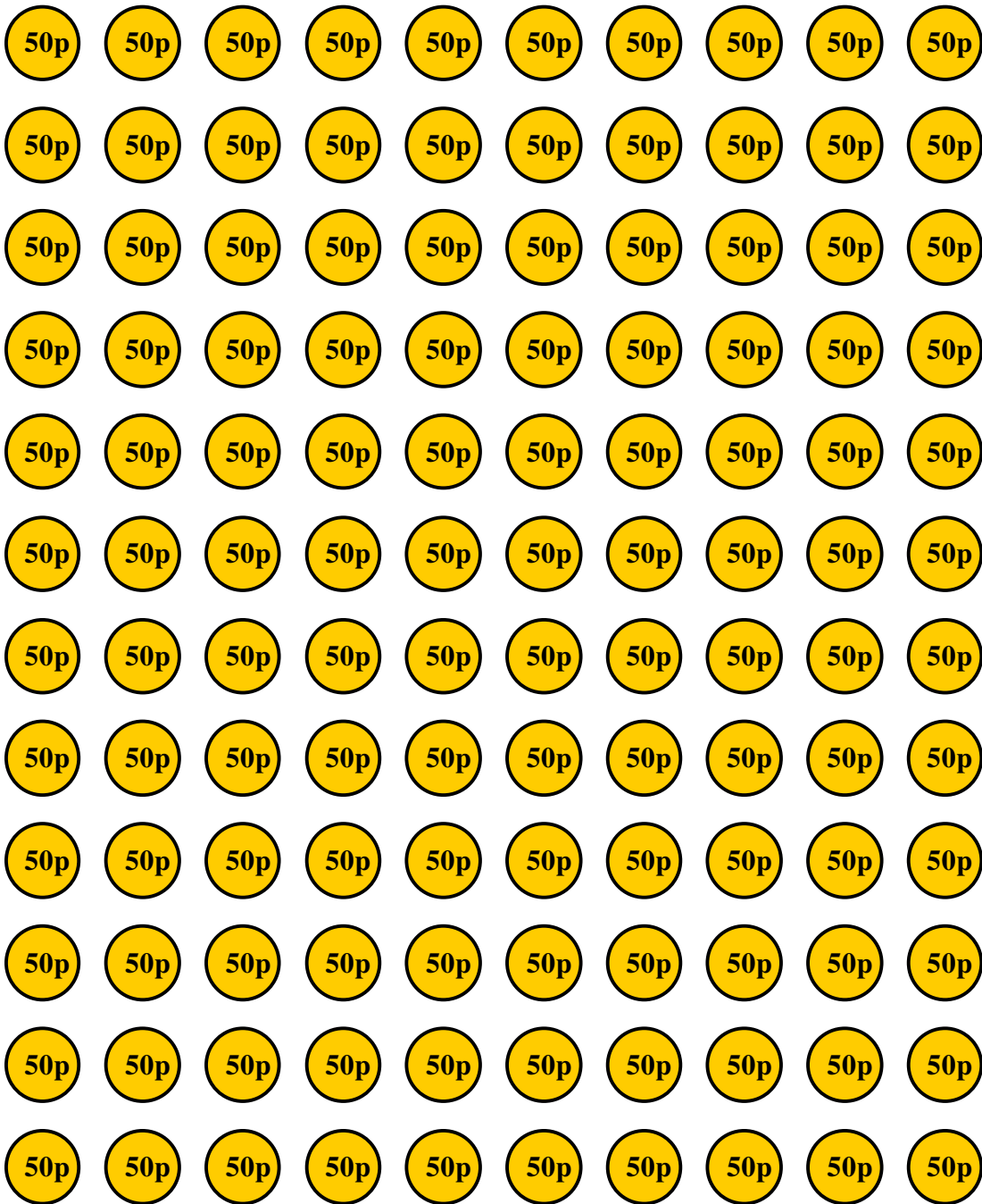
The session needs to start with some kind of video about people in the developing world. It is important that the young people have something to visually latch onto and relate to - having seen the pictures it helps them imagine themselves into the situation. It doesn't need to be particularly harrowing, in fact the more straightforward it is at introducing them to people, the better.

Each team/yp starts by getting team sheet a,b,c or d. Each one describes a different family which the young people will have to feed and care for 6 days. Teams of young people with lower ability may struggle with getting C or D and will need extra support to work out what to do. The teams also get a 'cost of stuff' card which is folded in half so that the 'cost of school stuff' can't be seen.

The game is co-ordinated by one adult who gives out money and sees how it is spent each day. Each day each team receives a certain amount of money or goods depending upon their circumstances. The teams have to decide how to spend this money or whether to save it up. Each family member must eat at least once each day. If a team cannot feed all the family for three days running they must either pay 5 to go to the doctor or, if they can't afford that, the youngest child will die.

Any kind of reasonable enterprise is allowed - families can club together or give gifts or loans to each other. However, if a city family wants to lend/give/etc to a village family, they must be able to pay the bus fare to get there!

Day 3 has a few suggestions for questions as the teams start to get the idea of the game. Day 4 is the important day as this is when they get the task of saving for their child to go to school and are given the 'cost of school stuff' list. The game sheet also has suggestion questions for the end of the game.



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