

Optional Activity 3: Let's Plan!

Everyone is a planner! Some people plan cities, while others plan vacations or events both big and small. While every kind of planning project is different, one thing most planning processes have in common is a problem they are trying to solve.

Sometimes the problem is simple, like your family deciding where to go on vacation, but other problems, including many we find in cities, are more complicated. Look at climate change. It impacts many different parts of the city in many different ways. There isn't just one single solution to climate change, which makes it what we call a "wicked problem".

Planning for the future of Vancouver is another kind of wicked problem! In Module 2, we'll present you with choices for the future of the City. These options are based on feedback we've gotten so far and are possible solutions to some of the biggest issues facing the city and including how and where Vancouver will grow in the future!

Now, you get to design a planning process for something you care about! It can be a wicked problem, like the city's future, or it can be simpler, like planning a class field trip!

Your Planning Process:

1. Choose what you want to plan (remember some things will be easier than others!)
2. Part of the process is thinking about different ways to solve the problem, or meet your goal. Think about what the benefits some options might have (like ght have (for example: flying to your vacation destination might save time, but a road trip might cost less!) and try to figure out how to choose between them!
3. Break the process down into steps! There is no one way to design a planning process, but many use a process diagram (like the one below) to outline the order of key steps and what must happen during each one.

1. What's the problem?
(or What are we doing?)

2. How can we solve the problem? (or get to where we want to go?)

3. How do we know which of the options or solutions to choose?

4. Choose the best option and go do it!

5. Follow up: What would you change? What worked? What didn't?

4. What did you miss? Walk through the whole process (see if a classmate can help you with this) step by step. Is there anything missing or a detail you overlooked?

Some other things to think about as you design your planning process:

- Do you get to make all the decisions, or do you need to ask others?
- Do you need any qualifications or to meet any requirements as part of the process?
- What things do you need to know or decisions do you need to make before you start?