The Cost of Care: Game Instructions

Name: _____ Animal: _____

Goal: Every parent has a limited amount of energy to invest in their offspring. Your challenge is to develop a caregiving strategy for your animal. You have **12 Care Tokens** to use on parenting challenges that come up in the wild.

How to play:

1. Choose an Animal Card, but do not flip it over to reveal the back. Based only on what you know about your animal's **habitat** and **offspring**, decide how your animal should invest its limited energy to help its offspring survive.
2. Build your caregiving strategy by placing your 12 Care Tokens on the Care Budget Board, or make your own board. Divide the tokens among the four types of parental care.
    - Food
    - Protection
    - Transportation
    - Social support
3. You cannot place more than four tokens on any category. You do not need to place any tokens on a category if you choose not to.
4. Once your Care Budget is complete, shuffle the Challenge Cards and draw one card at a time. Read the challenge and spend the required Care Tokens to overcome it. You cannot ignore a Challenge Card. You must spend the required Care Tokens. To spend your tokens, just move them off the board.
5. Continue drawing Challenge Cards until:
    - All Challenge Cards have been completed. Congratulations! All your offspring have survived. OR
    - You do not have enough Care Tokens to complete a challenge. Place that Challenge Card next to your Animal Card. Your offspring were unable to overcome that obstacle.
6. Now compare your strategy with nature's. Flip over your Animal Card to reveal how that species actually invests its energy in caring for its offspring. How did you do?

The Cost of Care: Reflection Questions

1. Which types of care did your animal invest in the most?

2. How similar or different were your choices as compared to reality?

3. What form of care is the most important for your species? Why do you think that type of care is so important for that species?

4. How may an animal's habitat and lifestyle influence the way it cares for its young?

5. Based on what you learned, how would you change your strategy if you played again?

The Caring Game: Care Budget Board

Place your 12 Care Tokens inside the boxes. Remove tokens as they are spent during the game.

FOOD

PROTECTION

TRANSPORTATION

SOCIAL SUPPORT