

# Common Pasture

- You need**
- ★ game recording sheet and calf market table (see copymasters)
  - ★ a computer spreadsheet (optional)
  - ★ classmates

## Game

**Common Pasture is a game for 3–5 players (farmers).**

### Important information:

- Calves always cost \$100 to buy.
- The more grass each calf gets, the bigger it grows and the more money it's worth at the end of the year.
- All the calves graze on the same piece of shared land. The more calves there are in total, the less grass there is for each one.
- All the calves are sold at the end of the year, and the pasture grows back fully.

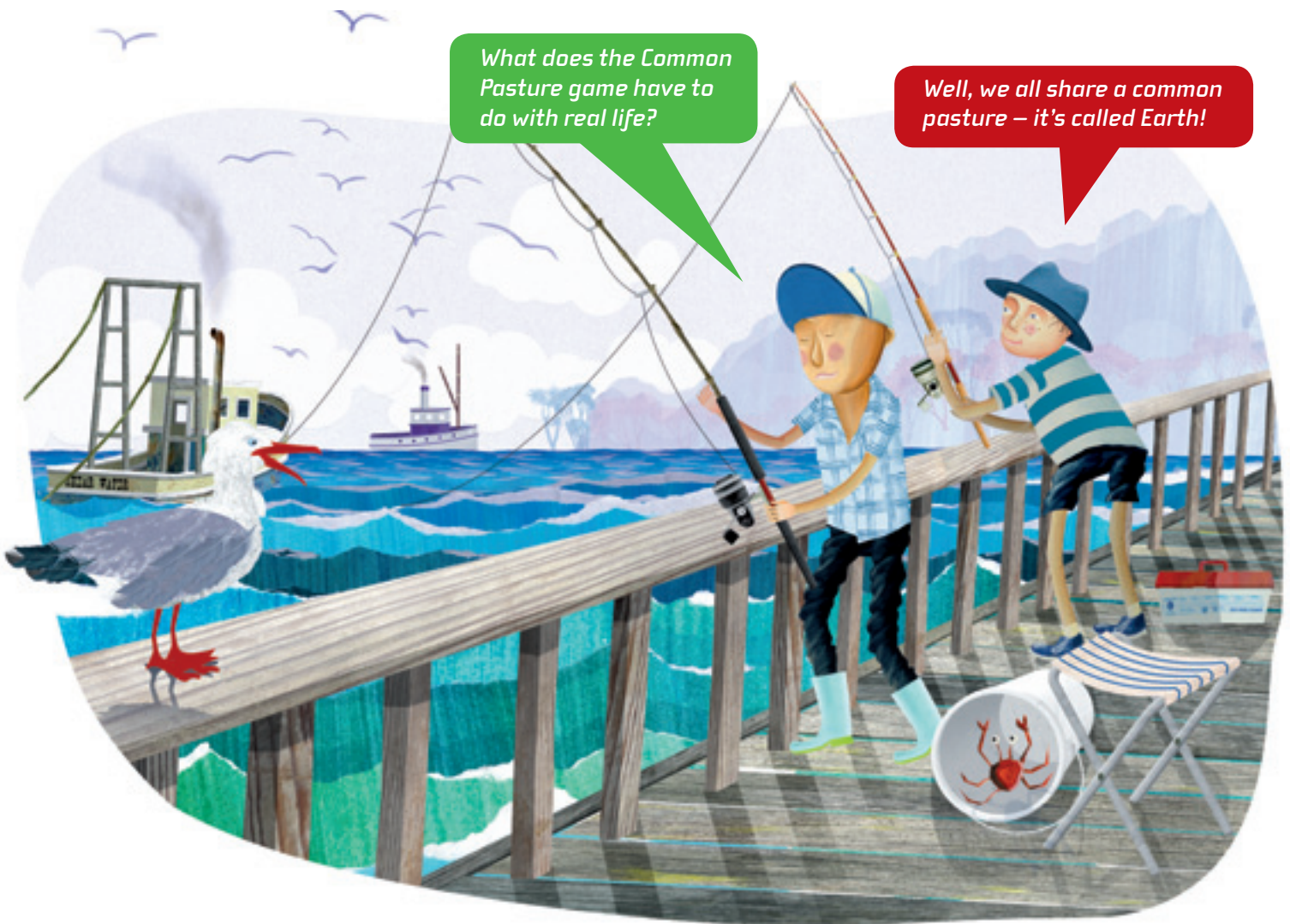
### How to play:

- Together, players count to 3 and then hold out 0–5 fingers. Each finger represents 1 calf you will raise in year 1.
- Add up the total number of calves for your group.
- Find the selling price of a calf from the table.
- Multiply the price by your own number of calves. Subtract the cost of each calf. Record your profit.
- Compare your profit with that of others in the game. Repeat for years 2–5.
- The winner is the farmer who has the most money after 5 years.



## Activity One

1. After one game, discuss with the other players:
  - a. What strategy did the winning player use?
  - b. Did your strategy change as you played the game?
  - c. What happened in a year when one or more farmers chose a large number of calves?
2. Play Common Pasture with different groups of classmates.
  - a. Discuss with a classmate what else you have learnt about winning strategies for this game.
  - b. What total number of calves would give the greatest group profit?



*What does the Common Pasture game have to do with real life?*

*Well, we all share a common pasture – it's called Earth!*

## Activity Two

1. Farmers don't normally share pasture with others, but everyone fishes the same oceans.
  - a. What can happen to fish stocks if the fish are caught in large numbers?
  - b. What can be done to ensure that fisheries are a renewable resource?
2. Discuss ways in which the game you have played relates to our use of Earth's resources.

**Focus** Calculating profit and comparing strategies