Student Guide

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@Stake Mining Edition — Student Guide
The Red Ridge Project

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

A decision-making simulation about stakeholder perspectives, evidence and the consequences of mining development.

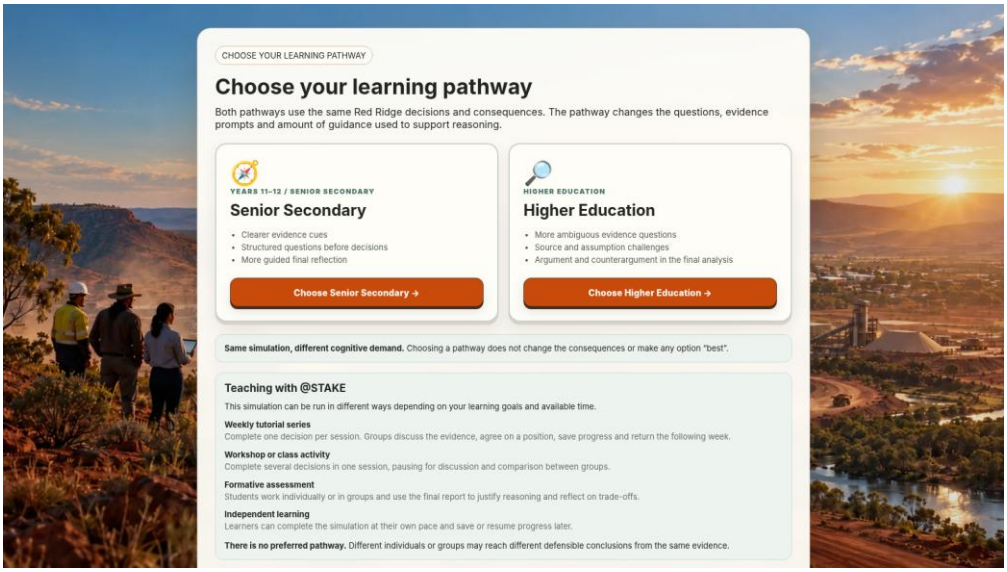
Your role

You are part of the Red Ridge Regional Development Panel. Across six linked decisions, you will consider a major critical-minerals project and decide how Red Ridge should respond. Each choice can affect Traditional Owners, the mining company, the local community, environment and water, businesses and workers, and government and infrastructure in different ways. There is rarely a choice that satisfies every stakeholder.

What you will practise

- Recognising different stakeholder interests and priorities.
- Weighing evidence, uncertainty and competing claims.
- Explaining trade-offs and defending your decisions.
- Noticing immediate, delayed and cumulative consequences.

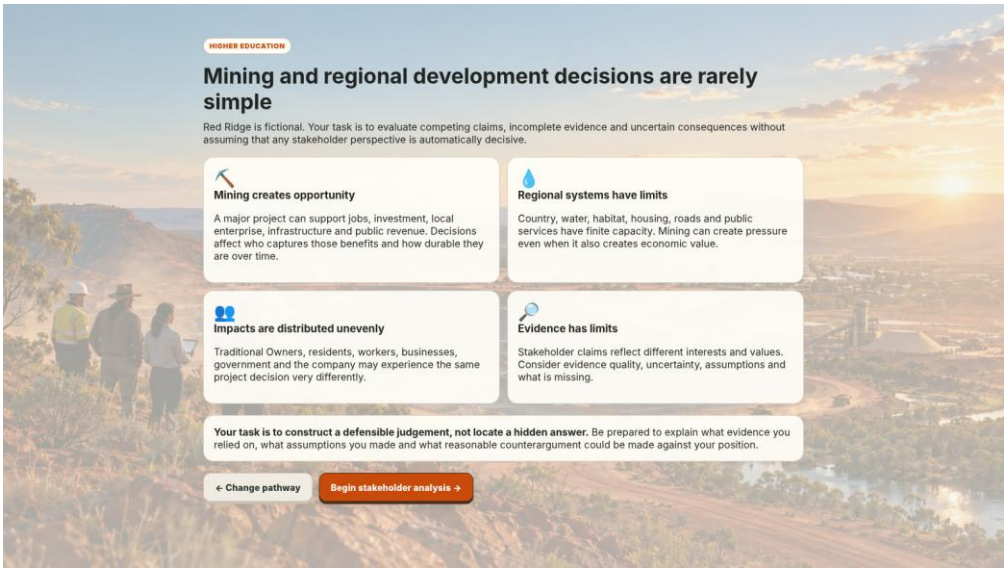
GETTING STARTED



Choose Senior Secondary or Higher Education. Both follow the same Red Ridge decisions however the level of the questions and evidence expectations differ.

Before the first decision

- Choose your learning pathway and enter a first name, initials or group name.
- Read the pre-simulation briefing, examine the stakeholder groups and make your initial prediction.
- If working in a group, agree on how you will discuss and record each choice.
- Use the stakeholder analysis to notice where interests may align, where they may conflict, and which claims you would want to verify.



THE DECISION CYCLE

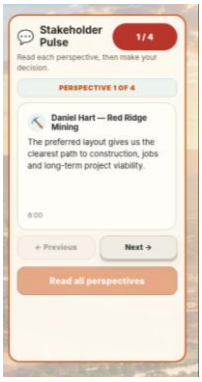
Each of the six decisions follows a similar process. Use all available information before selecting an option.

1 Explore the map

Select numbered locations to understand the proposed development, regional systems and the places or people affected.

2 Read the Stakeholder Pulse

Review every available perspective for the decision rather than stopping at the first familiar or persuasive opinion.

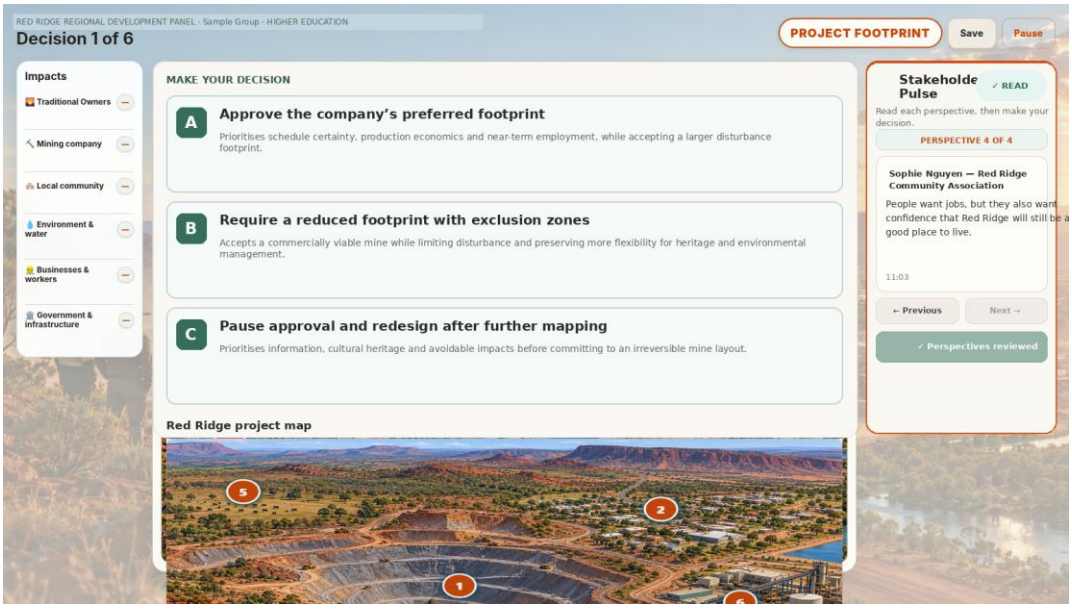


3 Open the Decision Briefing

Identify the key problem, supporting evidence, uncertainty and the critical question before you choose.

4 Compare options and decide

Ask what each option gains, what it risks, whose priorities it supports and what may become difficult to reverse. Discuss your reasoning before submitting.



The six Red Ridge decisions

1. **How Much of Red Ridge Should the Mine Use?**
2. **Where Should the Mine Get Its Water?**
3. **What Should Red Ridge Gain From the Project?**
4. **The Wet Season Changes the Picture**
5. **Where Will the Workforce Live?**
6. **Should Red Ridge Expand?**

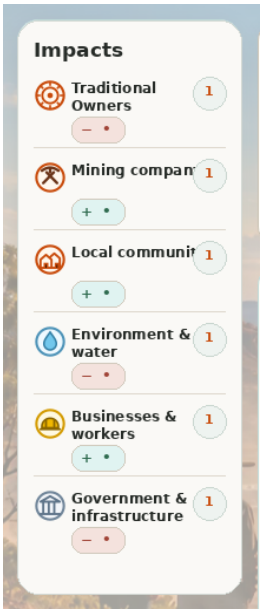
Remember

The simulation provides evidence and consequences. You provide the judgement. There is no hidden “perfect” pathway.

AFTER EACH DECISION

5 Look for consequences

Some effects are immediate; others are delayed. Watch the stakeholder impacts and read new reactions to see how the wider Red Ridge system changes



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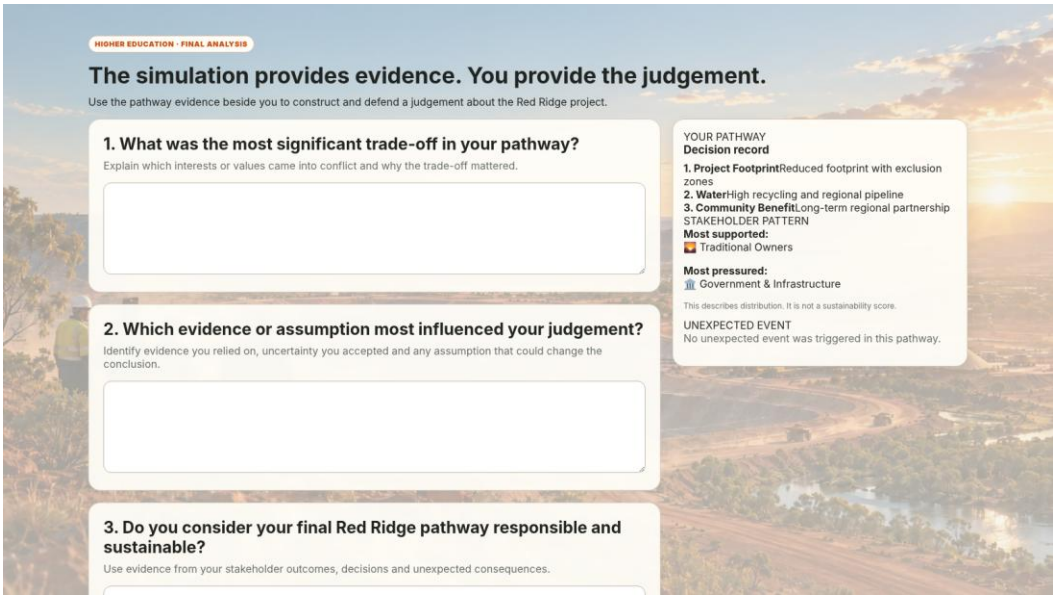
6 Reflect and move forward

Do not judge a decision only by whether one group benefited. Consider fairness, evidence, trade-offs, uncertainty and longer-term impacts.

Useful questions

- What evidence influenced us the most?
- Whose perspective did we initially overlook?
- What assumption are we making?
- What would we change if new evidence emerged?

YOUR FINAL ANALYSIS



The final analysis brings together your reasoning and the decisions made during the Red Ridge project.

Use your report to explain - not just describe

- Identify a decision you would defend and the evidence behind it.
- Discuss one compromise or trade-off that was difficult.
- Find an unexpected or delayed consequence and explain why it matters.
- Name a stakeholder perspective that changed your thinking.
- Explain what information or evidence you would investigate further.

Final challenge

Would you make the same decisions again? What would you keep, change or investigate further - and why?