

You are all wet!

Think mid July on the west coast of Florida – needless to say, everyone and his or her brothers and sisters are jammed on to the beach. Morgan, Ciara, and Britton had packed up their beach towels, water bottles, and surf toys and were off to the beach. Wow was it crowded, noisy, messy, and trash was everywhere.

Morgan and his friends wanted to swim where it was quiet and avoid getting splashed all over by the tots and families spread all over the beachfront. Where could they find a nice, quiet, clean place to float down at the shoreline? After all, it was a huge coastline wasn't it? They searched up and down the beach and found nothing. With the exception of the narrow strip of land that was the public beach access (about 500 yards), they found signs that read "No Trespassing," "Keep Out!" and "No Public Access." Just past the signs, there were few people; nice clean stretches of sand and what looked like an endless strip of uncrowded shoreline.

One-day, Ciara, her friends, and her classmates began a discussion in school about the closed beaches. They continued the conversation out on to the playground after class. It just didn't seem fair. The Gulf didn't belong to anyone, did it? Nobody can own the water in the gulf or the ocean, they concluded. Many of the boys thought they should just invade one of the private beach areas as a group and have a swim.

Why do communities have property rights?

What purposes do property rights service?

Are these kinds of rights fair? Why?

What are some of the advantages of property rights?

What are some of the disadvantages that occur because of private property rights?

Where do you think the idea of property rights came from?

Are property rights the same in every society/country?

How do you think they might differ?

After discussing the preceding questions, would you advise them to go ahead or not?

Why or why not?