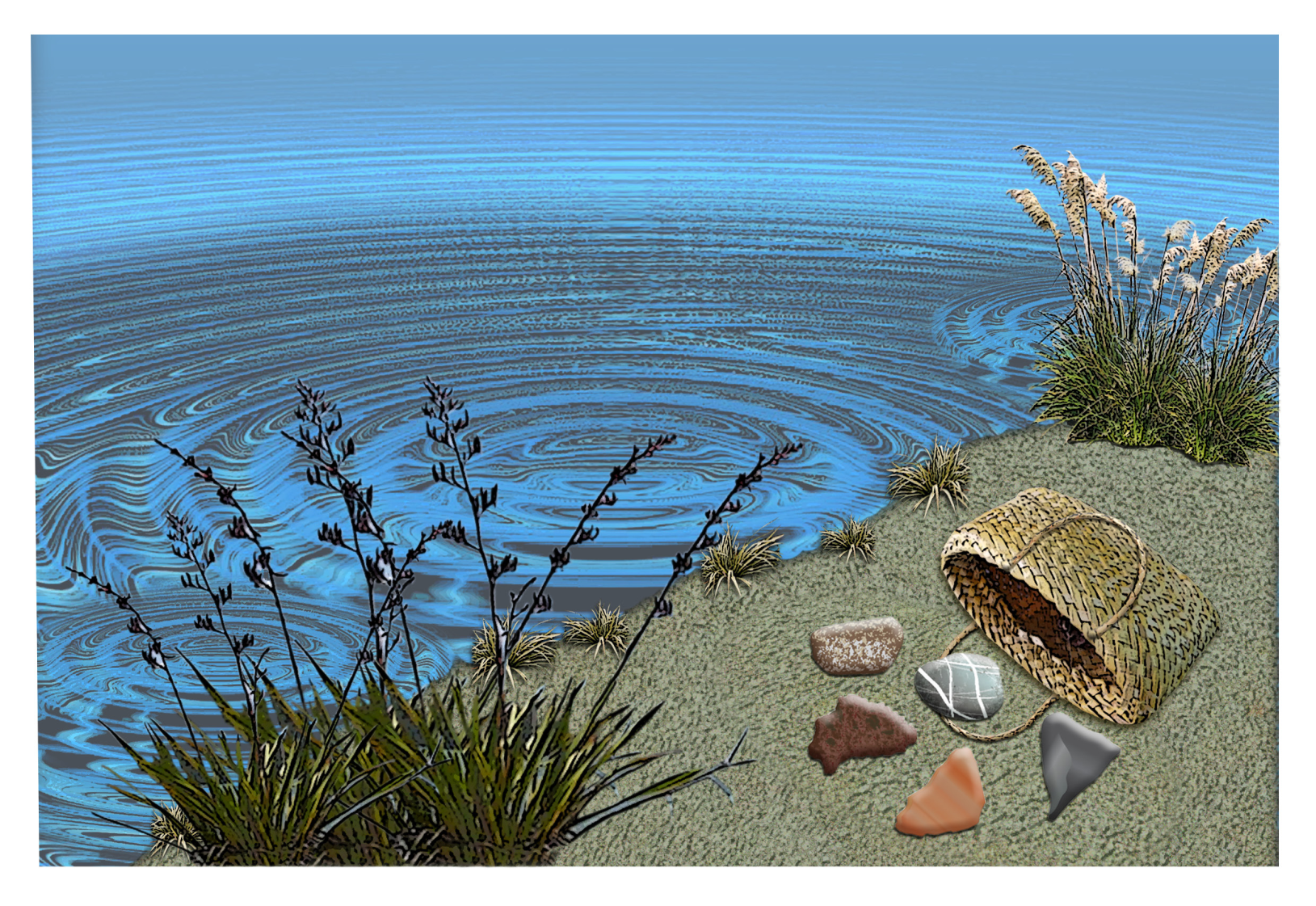
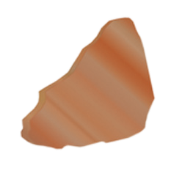
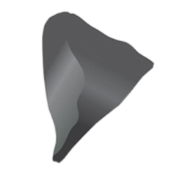
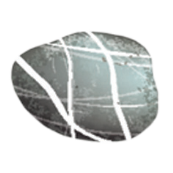
**ETHICS THINKING TOOLKIT**



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**Consequences**

**Rights and responsibilities**

**Autonomy**

**Virtue ethics Pluralism**

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**Ethics thinking toolkit**

Ethics. It’s about deciding what is right or wrong and why. But who decides? Will everyone agree? What happens if they don’t?

A range of different approaches – ethical frameworks – are used to guide how ethicists make decisions about controversial issues:

### Consequences

 – what are the benefits and risks?

### Rights and responsibilities

 – what rights need to be protected and who is responsible for doing this?

### Autonomy

 – should individuals have the right to choose for themselves, or does one decision count

for everyone?

### Virtue ethics

 – what is the ‘good’ thing to do?

### Pluralism

– what perspectives do groups with other cultural, spiritual or religious views have and how can these views be taken into account?

**Ethical issue**

What are your ideas about this issue? Explore your ideas. Delve more deeply. Work out what you think and why.

## Consequences

Consequentialism is an ethical approach that considers the consequences of certain decisions and actions. Using this approach, an ethicist weighs the benefits and harms that could result.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Who/what is affected?** | **What are the possible benefits?** | **What are the possible benefits?** |
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|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **If one is harmed and another benefits, who or what matters most?** | | |
|  | | |
| **Which consequence will produce the most benefit and the least harm?** | | |
|  | | |

## Rights and responsibilities

Rights and responsibilities is an ethical approach. Rights and responsibilities are closely related – the rights of one imply the responsibilities (or duties) of another to ensure those rights are protected.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Who/what is affected?** | **What are their rights?** | **What are their responsibilities?** |
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|  |  |  |
| **Do we value some rights more than others? Whose rights do we want to protect?** | | |
|  | | |
| **Are there any national or international laws or codes related to this issue?** | | |
|  | | |

## Autonomy

Autonomy is an ethical approach that recognises the right for individuals to choose for themselves. Using this approach, an ethicist prioritises the rights of individuals to make their own decisions.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Who/what is affected?** | **What effects might their choice have on others?** | **What effects might others’ choices have on them?** |
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| **Does everyone have to do the same thing? What could the impacts of this be?** | | |
|  | | |
| **What is informed consent? Is it important here?** | | |
|  | | |

## Virtue ethics

Virtue ethics recognises qualities that the community generally accepts as being ‘good’, like honesty and kindness. Virtue ethics emphasise decisions that are in line with these qualities.

|  |
| --- |
| **Who/what is affected by this issue?** |
|  |
| **What qualities make someone a ‘good’ or virtuous person?** |
|  |
| **What decisions/actions related to this issue are associated with being a ‘good’ person?** |
|  |
| **Do you think most people agree that these decisions/actions are ‘good’? Explain why you think that.** |
|  |
| **Who could disagree that these decisions/actions are ‘good’? Why do you think they might disagree?** |
|  |

## Pluralism

Pluralism is an ethical approach that recognises that ethical decisions are viewed differently by different people. When considering ethical issues, it is important to consider the range of views that may exist, and respect diversity.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Which groups of people have views about this issue?** | **What are their views?** | **Why might they think this way?** |
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| **Do all groups voice their views?** | | |
|  | | |
| **Do the views of all groups have equal weighting? How did you decide?** | | |
|  | | |
| **Can all the groups agree? Do they need to?** | | |
|  | | |

**Consider your thinking**

Consider the ethical thinking that you have done and list five possible responses (actions/ decisions) to this issue. Rank these responses from 1 (the one you think is most important) to 5 (the one you think is the least important).

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| --- | --- |
| **Possible responses** | **Rank** |
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|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Explain why you chose to rank the responses in that order.** | |
|  | |
| **The ethical approach I have given priority to:** | |
|  | |
| **Why others might not agree with me:** | |
|  | |
| **The ethical approach others might use:** | |
|  | |
| **What new ideas do you have about this issue, as a result of thinking ethically?** | |
|  | |