



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Three Steps Forward

*An activity of "Backpacks with solar panels help kids read".*

Imagine a backpack being able to power up a reading light! The person who came up with that idea saw a need for it and put it into action. That led to the creation of Soma Bags. Read "Backpacks with solar panels help kids read" (page 27, *What's Up* March 2025).

#### ON YOUR OWN

1. Complete the table, in point form, based on the *What's Up* story.

How Innocent James created Soma Bags		
His observations	His ideas	His actions
a)  Children begged on the streets.  They used the money they received to play video games.		
B)  Children were not reading the books they borrowed.  Their houses had no electricity. It was too dark to read at home.		

2. Identify a problem that you see around you. Come up with two ideas to solve it.

<b>My observations of a problem:</b>	
<b>Idea 1</b>	<b>Idea 2</b>

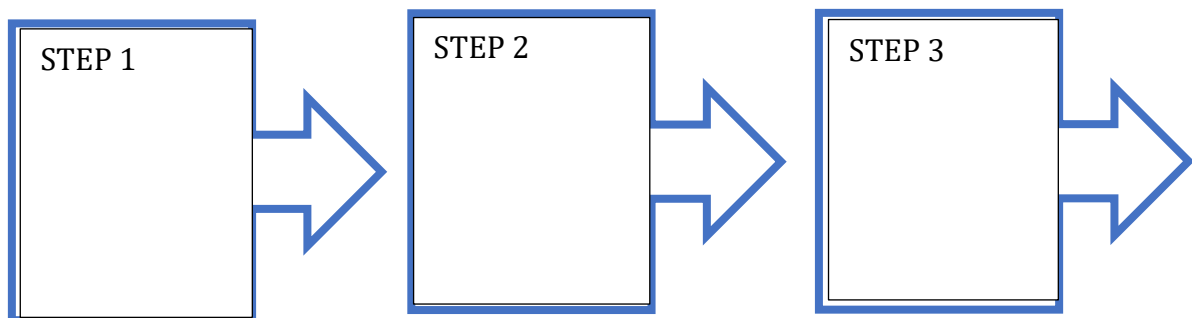
**IN YOUR GROUP**

3. Take turns to present your observations and ideas. Listen to your group members' opinions of your ideas. Which idea do you think would work best?

The idea that would work best is \_\_\_\_\_.

**ON YOUR OWN**

4. Write out the first three steps of an action plan for your idea.



**IN YOUR GROUP**

5. Take turns to report back about the three steps each of you has developed. Give each other feedback for improving your action plans. Respond thoughtfully to whatever feedback you receive. On your part, when you give feedback, first say what you like about a member's three steps. Then, give your suggestions and finally, share your hope for that plan.

6. Have a group conversation. Reflect on this:

*Identifying problems is a big first step.  
Imagining solutions must happen  
before real-world action takes place.*

*It is never too early to start thinking about  
how to make our world a better place.*