



"Sound Mapping"

AGE: 5+

DURATION: 10-30 minutes

GOAL: Increased awareness of the complexity and beauty of the world around us, while being introduced to mapping.

RESOURCE PAGES: N/a

Description

Children will concentrate deeply on the world around them - paying special attention to their sense of hearing. They will create a map of the sounds around them. It is important to have a good tone and use proper verbiage in order to set the right atmosphere (calm, reflective, curious). See "Opening Activities" below on how to run the program.

Key Concepts

- Auditory awareness
- Mapping (landmarks, directional awareness)
- Sense of place

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil and/or coloring supplies

Preparation

- N/a

Opening Activities and Safety

1. Have the group gather and sit. Feel free to discuss senses before you prompt the activity.
2. Prompt them by saying something like "we're going to get to pay special attention to our sense of hearing and make a map of all the wonderful sounds happening around us".
3. Have everyone draw themselves in the center of the paper.
4. Once most of the group has drawn themselves, ask how they could show which direction is which on their paper (so they know which way is behind or in front of them and so on). Landmarks! If they draw key landmarks/features around them (trail, sidewalk, building, field, giant tree, stream) then they'll be able to tell which direction is which.
5. Have them draw in their landmarks.
6. Once most people are finished with their landmarks announce that now everyone except for the instructors should stay quiet and pay special attention to what they're hearing for about 10 minutes.
7. Have everyone close their eyes for 1-2 minutes and listen closely to the world around them. Explain that when we take away a sense we can usually pay better attention to our others.
8. Once the minute or so is up have everyone slowly open their eyes and begin to draw the things they hear. They have creative freedom here - they can draw what they think is

making the noise or create a symbol that represents the sound, or write out what it sounds like.

9. After a few minutes, teach them about deer ears. By cupping their hands behind their ears they create larger curved ears - just like deer! This creates a greater surface area to capture sound. Deer can also turn their ears to listen in different directions. Show them how to cup the hands in front of their ears, with their palm facing backwards, to hear sounds behind them.
10. Let them continue listening and drawing. Feel free to play a few bird calls to see if some will call back or come closer. Pointing in directions you hear things can also help them stay engaged.
11. Use the questions below to discuss their experience!

Questions to Pose

You can pose questions that help children form their own learning from direct observations outdoors. The purpose of these questions is not to explain or give answers, but to encourage children to listen, observe, inquire, discuss with each other, and arrive at conclusions on their own.

Questions may include:

- What sounds did you hear? What direction did you hear it? - each time a child shares, ask the rest of the group if they also heard that sound. Have them raise their hands if they did. Ask if they heard it from a different direction than the person sharing.
- What direction did you hear the most sounds? Why do you think that is?
- What did you hear? Was it more than you hear now? Why?
- Ask them to recreate some of the sounds sounds (the other kids can guess what it is)
- What was your favorite sound? How did it make you feel?

Transitions

N/a

Closing Activities

- Discussions of questions above.

Background

N/a