

Camera

Snap! Capture the beauty of nature with the use of your 'human camera'. This activity is great for encouraging children to look more closely at their environment.

Time: 10 minutes

Ages: 5 and up

Materials Required: None

Nature-Friendly Park Experience: Help keep people, wildlife and habitat healthy.

Stay on designated trails at all times. Walking off trails can damage small plants and tree roots.

Admire berries, leaves and flowers without picking them. Animals use them for food and to make homes.

Everything in the park must stay in the park. All things found in nature have a role to play.

Go outside into nature.

Ask each person to find a partner.

One person will play the role of photographer and the other a camera.

The person who is the camera will keep their 'shutter' (i.e. eyes) closed until their partner is ready to take a picture. The photographer leads their 'camera' along the trail until they see something interesting like a beautiful view, towering tree top or tiny droplet of water on a leaf. The photographer carefully directs their partner's head toward the view or object, and tugs gently on their partner's ear to take the picture. When the partner feels the tug, they open their eyes like a camera shutter, takes a picture with their eyes and then closes their eyes again.

Allow everyone to take three pictures with their partners before switching roles. After everyone has had a chance to take their photographs, they can share their favorite snap shot with their partners and/or group. Was there something special about that particular shot?

A fun extension to this activity is to have everyone draw their favourite snap shot and share their drawings with the rest of the group. The rest of the group then tries to find the location of the image.

SOURCE: CORNELL, J. (1989). SHARING THE JOY OF NATURE (PP. 104-107). NEVADA CITY, CA: DAWN PUBLICATIONS.