

LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION



Easy integration activity to raise awareness on the change of natural landscapes and culture due to human activities.



Learning experience



Topic

Nature connectedness & engagement



Time in min
10-15 min



Participants

- Understand the variety of influences of human activity on natural landscapes



Suitable for
outdoor sport instructors
(and course participants)



Practical sessions
Theoretical lessons
Digital session



Outdoor F2F
Indoor F2F
Digital



Materials needed

- Photos of landscapes at different times if available



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Preparation

Activity instruction

On a viewing platform or during a break (with a view) the participants are asked to have a look at the landscape and reflect what the landscape would look like if no human would have influenced it. What elements are natural/wild and what gives a hint on human activities.

Those elements may be:

- infrastructure like farms, lifts or streets
- the lack of forest due to forestry (especially when the wood was needed for some kind of energy consuming historical industry) or animal stock like sheep
- deeper glacier levels or higher vegetation zones due to climate change
- erosion or land and rock slides due to heavy rains or/and missing forest
- coastal erosion due to storms (-> climate change) or invasive plants that have replaced the traditional "protection plants" etc.

Reflection and discussion

You can help foster discussions and understanding by showing pictures from different times to illustrate the change.

In a second step, you can reflect on the impact of human activities e.g. more houses and streets and less natural habitats for wild fauna, monoculture agriculture and less biodiversity but sometimes also positive effects e.g. meadows in the Alps (instead of forests) can be very rich in biodiversity.

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Potential variations

Instead of doing the interpretation in the field, you can also show pictures of landscapes at different times via ppt (either face-to-face in theoretical sessions or online).

You can also focus on culture and its change due to tourism etc.

A good example for discussion is given by the Austrian photographer Lois Hechenblaikner https://www.hechenblaikner.at/portfolio_page/hinter-den-bergen/



Background knowledge

Literature and further information

Very good comparison of the glaciers in Europe can be found on Gletscherarchiv

<https://www.gletscherarchiv.de/fotovergleiche/>

Impressive comparisons from more recent years in Switzerland can be found on Gletschervergleiche

<https://www.gletschervergleiche.ch/Pages/ImageCompare.aspx?Id=1>



Key words

#landscapes
#erosion
#climate change
#cultural and historical
background



Source

Inspired by Lena Behrendes,
educator at the youth educa-
tion centre "Jubi Hindelang" of
the German Alpine Club



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