



Personal feelings are the starting point to get people to really think if they potentially are having a negative effect on animal's behaviour, consider ways to negate this and develop empathy with other living creatures.



Learning experience



Fauna



15 minutes

Proximity to wildlife and disturbance



Participants

- Are empathetic to other living creatures
- Are able to consider our effect on animals when in their living environment
- Are able to change/modify behaviour when around or in close proximity
- Consider if our presence has a negative effect and if it is necessary to be there



Suitable for outdoor sport instructors and course participants



Practical sessions (Theoretical lessons)



Outdoor F2F
Indoor F2F



Materials needed

- Camera/phone camera
- Lunch and eating spot

More activities under see-project.eu



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Preparation

The activity should take place during a break or lunchtime with a group that is in natural environment. Before, the guide/instructor can facilitate a short discussion on what animal behaviour creates the greatest opportunities for viewing or interaction.

Allow walk and talk to the lunch spot that will start the seeds of idea creation and give participants a reference for reflection on the subject in preparation.

Activity instruction

At the lunch spot, the guide/instructor without introduction moves through the group taking pictures of members relaxing / sitting and eating etc. Efforts are made to be up close and personal whilst participants eat, taking pictures of people chewing, swallowing eating ... No explanation is given other than a desire to get real close up pictures (The leader tries to make participants uncomfortable/ irritable/angry, ultimately to try and make them change their behaviour, be disturbed or move).

Reflection and discussion

Give participants enough time to reflect and maybe ask the question 'What was that about?' Express how it made them feel ...hopefully annoyed and uncomfortable. The leader then asks questions that prompt reflection on the feelings and thoughts and makes the connection between these feelings and prior discussion.

Do the same for the activities!

- What behaviour do we practise when we experience wildlife in their natural environment, when are we most likely to take pictures, move closer, disturb etc.?
- Are there ways and means to reduce this negative effect e.g. use Binoculars, a zoom camera, a hide, camouflage clothing, move-on and leave the animals alone
- Consider personal feelings to encourage greater empathy and understanding of impact groups or individual behaviour can have on other species.



FEEDING TIME PHOTOSHOOT



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Background knowledge

Knowledge of feeding patterns of species encountered would be helpful.

The ability to assess if the emotional effect of this activity will not negate the possibility for reflection and discussion (some people are really upset, disturbed by this activity and cannot get past their feeling of uncomfortableness).



Key words

#empathy
#change of perspectives
#fauna



Source

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