

“Equate! Relate!” Scenario Card

SCENARIO: CAMPSITES

A group of people camp on the edge of an untouched meadow because it is easy to watch wildlife. They stay for many days and leave a new rock fire ring, large log benches, and newly worn trails in and around the camp.

Questions

- How might the scene of this abandoned campsite attract more campers to this area?*
- If more campers come, how might their presence affect the meadow's community of life?*

Answers

- People are often attracted to established campsites. The remains of the fire rings, benches, and trails will encourage more people to camp there.
- If camping use becomes too heavy, some animals will be driven from the meadow.

Note: A large-scale example of animal displacement can be seen in cities. How many wild animals like to live near people? The deer might want to drop the string.

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SCENARIO: FIREWOOD

A leader has asked four young campers to collect wood. The campers use axes to hack at live trees. They also peel tree bark to help start their fire.

Questions

- How might these actions harm the trees?*
- What alternatives are there to cooking with fire?*
- What might be some nighttime activities that could replace an evening around the campfire?*

Answers

- When bark is hacked or peeled from a live tree, the tree is wounded. Wounds expose trees to disease and insects that could harm or kill the tree.

Note: The web will be affected if the tree dies. For example, the woodpecker would drop the string.

- Campers can more easily cook using lightweight stoves rather than campfires, or they can bring prepared foods.
- Learn about the stars; use dark shapes surrounding the campsite to stimulate storytelling; go for a moonlight hike if the moon is bright.

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SCENARIO: WILDFLOWERS

Three campers go out for an afternoon hike. They each return to camp with a handful of wildflowers to give to their leader.

Questions

- Why should wildflowers be left in their natural setting?*
- How else might the campers share their love for wildflowers or the desire to present their leader with a gift?*

Answers

- Wildflowers should be kept in their natural setting as food for animals, so the flowers can reseed themselves for the next growing season and to allow other visitors the opportunity to view their beauty.

Note: If wildflowers disappear, animals in the web that depend upon them are in trouble. They should drop their string.

- The campers could take their leader to see the flowers, or they could make a drawing to give their leader.

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SCENARIO: WATER

You have been hiking all day and stop in a campsite for the night. As you are setting up you notice two tents next to the stream.

Questions

- How will these campers affect the animals that use this location at night to get their water?*
- What, if anything, might you do or say to these campers?*

Answers

- The animals might be too afraid to approach the river for a drink. Also, camping so close to a stream could cause pollution from wash water and human waste entering the river.

Note: Those animals that depend upon the stream for drinking water should drop their string.

- This is a difficult question to answer. How will your group respond?