

To Have or Not to Have!

Adapted from Project Learning Tree

Objective

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of human and nonhuman activity in their neighborhood park.

Skills

Students will use critical thinking and value skills during this project

Supplies

- map of neighborhood park created by students during Spring visit
- pencils and crayons
- letter size paper cut into 4 sections (two sections per student)
- scotch tape

Activity

1. Make several copies of the neighborhood park map.
2. Break class into smaller groups (4- 5 students).
3. Each group will be given a large white cardboard sheet and map.
4. Each group will draw the map on the large cardboard sheet and color.
5. Lead the class in a brainstorming session to list examples of human and nonhuman activity which might be introduced into the park. List examples on the blackboard. The list might include:
 - Fences
 - Picnic areas
 - A road cutting through the Park Board
 - Red fox hunting for food
 - Pond or stream
 - A parking lot or larger parking lot
 - Forested area or large meadow
 - Soccer or baseball field
 - A hawk or owl nesting in a tree
 - Campground
 - Fast food restaurant
6. Ask students to choose two examples from the list or to make up their own and draw them.
7. When the pictures have been drawn, ask each student, in turn, to pick one of their pictures and choose a place on their map to place the picture. Attach them with tape. Each student can explain to the class why they selected that location.
8. After all the students have had a turn, ask each student to brainstorm the possible consequences resulting from introducing into the park the activities shown. Sample consequences include: forest fire, more litter, soil erosion, human recreation, physical attractions to the park, increase or loss of habitat, injured animals, etc. Discuss with the students both the possible beneficial and detrimental effects of these consequences.
9. Ask the student what activities would provide long-term benefits for both humans and wildlife.

