

Learning Laguna Field Activity : Sound Mapping

Goal: Encourage students to use their hearing to listen to nature.
Compare and contrast natural sounds and man made sounds.

Set-up: Hand out clip boards, pencils and paper. Tell the group that they are going to listen for sounds with their **eyes closed** and make a mark on the paper that represents the sounds they hear. The marks should be interpretive, not literal, they should spend more time listening than drawing. Tell the group that they can cup their hands behind their ears in order to hear better. Their hands provide a reflective surface for catching sounds. They may also turn in several directions during the listening time.

Activity: Have the group spread out along the trail, make sure you can see everyone. Give them a minute to get settled and then spend **5-7** minutes listening. Bring the group back together and have them share what they heard.

- Which sound did you like best? Why?
- Which sounds did you like least? Why?
- Did you recognize any of the sounds?
- Make sure each student shares at least 1 thing they heard.
- If you heard something no one mentions, you can ask, did anyone hear the ____?

If there is more time, students can color their maps.

Have each student take their own map. Gather up the clip boards, place them and the pencils back into box.

VARIATION:

Eliminate the clipboards and the paper. Have students either spread out along the trail (not too far apart) or form a circle. Ask students to close their eyes and when they hear a sound, they raise a finger in the air.

After everyone in the group has 4-5 fingers raised, you bring them into a circle and using the above questions to **share what they heard**.