



Handful of Sounds

WHAT'S THE Big Idea? Community

Materials

None

Extension

You can adapt this walking activity to be a quiet, seated one. Have children find a spot in the woods, field, or school yard. Once they find a spot, have them sit quietly with a clipboard or sheet of paper. As they hear a sound, have them draw a mark or picture of what they heard. After an appropriate time, call the group together to share what they heard.

Enduring Understanding

- Communities are made up of the people, animals, and plants that live in them.

Objectives

- Children demonstrate an awareness of the living things around them.
- Children show interest and curiosity in discovering the sounds of living things.
- Children cultivate the ability to use their sense of hearing as an observation skill.

Directions

1. While walking outdoors, ask, “Who might live here?” Explain that we can use our ears to try to answer this question.
2. Have all the children raise a hand with their fists closed, and be as silent as they can.
3. The children walk single file from a starting point to an ending spot. Each time a child hears a different sound, the child should raise one finger. Continue to listen for sounds until all the children’s fingers are up.
4. At the end of the quiet time (usually only a few minutes), have the children share the variety of sounds they heard and guess who made each sound.
5. Process the experience with the children by engaging in a conversation guided by the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions

- Who lives here?
- How do we know who lives here?
- Who else might live here?
- Why do you think _____ lives here?
- Who and what are the members of this community?
- What sounds were from the natural world?
The built world?

