



Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Instilling and developing leadership capabilities in youth and adults.

ACTIVITY 8: "Surrounded by Beauty"

AGE LEVEL - Beginning

CONCEPT OR SKILL –

Communications – accepting difference, conflict resolution, verbal vs. non-verbal

LIFE SKILL(S) – Heart –

Communications, Conflict Resolution, Accepting Differences

BEHAVIORAL INDICATOR – Enjoy working in same gender groups.

THINGS TO KNOW:

The diversity within each 4-H club or community is invaluable. Specific and varying backgrounds, talents, and goals make every individual unique, and their contributions to the group important. Youth who are confident with the knowledge that others value their unique abilities will in turn value diversity and exhibit caring and acceptance towards all people. The adult volunteer can foster appreciation of diversity by generating conversation and helping youth recognize their own unique and positive characteristics, as well of the positive attributes of others.

Nature creates a unique identity in every object. That unique quality makes us different, with distinct characteristics and talents. Every object in nature contains some kind of beauty, but we often don't take the time to notice it. This activity is an exercise in examining detail, and learning to accept and celebrate the differences that makes things beautiful and unique. It can be done outside if weather permits or elements of the outdoors can be brought inside; just remind the group never to harm or destroy living things and always leave a place better than you found it.



Materials Needed: Drawing paper and pencils. If the activity is performed indoors a variety of natural objects will be needed: rocks, plants, different soils samples, woods, seeds, nuts, fruits, vegetables, etc.

Do: Select an object and carefully examine it for ten minutes. Use all of the senses: seeing, hearing, feeling, smelling and tasting. (Do not use a sense which could cause harm to the object or the participants – set risk boundaries) Look, touch, listen smell and/or taste if it will not disturbing the natural surroundings/habitat or cause harm to the individual or object. Examine from every angle and sense. After 10 minutes, find a spot where you can sit comfortably with the selected object in view. Draw every detail observed without looking at the paper. Do not take your eyes from the object during the process of drawing. It will be difficult to not look at the paper.

Reflect: 1) What is unique about the object? 2) Was it difficult to replicate that object? 3) What characteristic became more visible or unique the longer you studied the object? Is it hard to believe that no two objects are exactly alike? If everyone studied the same type of object (say a potato) what characteristic made it special or unique? 4) How would you feel if nothing in the world was unique, if everything was just a replication or clone?

Apply: 1) Keeping in mind our answers to the objects we just observed, do you think we can make generalizations? (Animals species, animal breeds, people, gender, religion, ethnics, race, etc.) 2) Why do you think we tend to generalize about things? Does this contribute to making fun of or put downs? 3) What ways can we be reminded the differences make us unique and/or special? 4) How is the success of the club dependent on the unique qualities and abilities of each member?