



NATURE INTERPRETATION EXERCISE
BASED ON ERF TRAINING 2023

ASSIGNING SPECIES TO NATURAL HABITATS



Background: Frederikshavn Kommune reserve manager Sisse Lindholm has presented a technique for telling stories about species and their natural habitats in a dune landscape that has evolved over 1,000 years untouched by humans.

What it takes

Three sets, each consisting of

- laminated photos for outdoor use on approx. 4 different habitat types, e.g. raised bog, lean meadow, mountain meadow, pine forest in A3 format
- Laminated photos of characteristic species for these habitats, at least 5 per habitat type, in postcard format or smaller.

How it works

- A group of visitors is divided into max. 3 small groups and given approx. 15 minutes to assign the species to the habitats and discuss the assignment.
- When the ranger/nature conservation expert resolves and assesses the assignments, the basis for stories emerges.
- An example: Blackbirds live in the forest, but many are familiar with them from their gardens. The story behind it: Their natural habitat is decreasing, so blackbird adapt and move into human settlements. Other species can't manage that. Or any other story out of conservation.

Bottom line

Easy to implement with little material, can be used over and over again and on a wide variety of visitor groups from small to adult, from layman to expert, and also fits in the ranger's backpack.

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MAKING UP STORIES FOR A FINGER PUPPET PLAY



Background: Ranger Bo Storm showed us in a pine forest how stories from nature can be acted out as a puppet show using natural materials from the forest.

What it takes

- One to three smaller groups
- Up to three blankets as a curtain that can be attached to tree trunks
- Up to 1.5 hours of time
- Imagination and cooperation of the participants

How it works

- Up to 5 participants per small group collect natural materials from the forest and think about which figures they want to represent and which story from nature they want to tell with them
- They are given 40 to 50 minutes to do this (in our case also coffee, tea and cake 😊)
- They fix the blankets as a curtain between two trees and act out their story (approx. 10 minutes per group).

Bottom line

A storytelling exercise that guarantees a lot of fun even for adults, encourages imagination and immersion in the invented characters and their situation with changes in voice, sometimes accompanying acoustic effects such as wind rustling up leaves or the like. The few necessary items fit well in the ranger's backpack (without coffee & cake 😊).

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RECITING STORIES FROM A CHILDREN'S BOOK



Background: How are stories structured, what emotions and moods do they convey and how do I tell them myself to draw my listeners into the story? This exercise, taught to us by Ranger Bo Storm, helps to develop a basic understanding of the structure of stories and how you can put others into these stories.

What it takes

- Children's books
- A group of listeners and storytellers to present the stories
- A dry, wind-protected place where the listeners can easily see and hear the storyteller

How it works

- The presenters read from the book, practising getting into the characters and mood to convey it through their voice, posture, gestures, etc.
- The audience listens and discusses with the presenter what helped or hindered them to get into the story.

Bottom line

A good exercise to train story building and storytelling with the whole body, to read the faces of the listeners and to find out how stories can be conveyed most effectively. Children's books also usually fit well in the ranger's luggage.

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