



Banff National Park – Learn to Hike

ESL Activity #1 – Discussion of Natural Spaces and Activity Experiences

Hiking Knowledge Objective:

Understand each student's experience with outdoor recreation, their mindset about natural spaces, their country specific information about protection of wildlife and the environment, and their knowledge of the outdoors.

Language Focus: Speaking – Employing Discussion Strategies through conversation/writing

Material: Discussion Question Sheet

Groupings: Pairs or groups of three

Time: 60 Min. Optional Activity - additional 90 Min.

Activity Outline:

This activity is divided into 2 parts and an optional 3rd activity. Students will answer discussion questions employing discussion strategies to understand each other's experience with outdoor recreation, their mindset about natural spaces, their country specific information about protection of wildlife or environment, and their knowledge of the outdoors.

Part 1: 15 Min - Introduce the following 2 Discussion Strategies with the students as a whole group.

Discussion Strategy #1 REJOINDERS and FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

When someone makes a statement, we use a rejoinder and then ask a follow-up question. Ask the group for possible rejoinders to Positive/Negative/Neutral statements (some can be in more than one category) and list them on the board. Examples:

Positive: That's great/wonderful.

Negative: That's too bad.

Neutral: Really?

I see.

Oh, yeah?

Tell them that follow-up questions show your interest in the discussion and desire to get more information. It helps with the follow of conversation and takes all the work of personal asking the questions to keep the conversation going.

Example:

Student A: What kinds of wildlife can you see in your home country?

Student B: We can see deer.

Student A: (Using Discussion Strategy #1) Really? Where would you see them?



Discussion Strategy #2 ANSWERING WITH DETAILS: Have the students use **and, but, so and because** with every answer.

Example:

Student A: What kinds of wildlife can you see in your home country?

Student B: (Using Discussion Strategy #2) We can see deer **but usually only in the countryside?**

Student A: (Using Discussion Strategy #1) **Really? Have you ever seen a deer?**

Part 2: 45 Min – Give each person a discussion questions sheet. Put the group into pairs or threesomes. Each pair, or threesome, will discuss the questions employing the discussion strategies of Rejoinders and Follow-up Questions, and Answering with Details. Student A will ask questions 1-6. Student B will ask questions 7-12. For each answer given, use a rejoinder and keep the conversation going with at least 3 follow up questions per numbered question. When students are done, pairs or threesomes will present most interesting finding to the whole group. If a group is moving through the questions quickly, it usually means that they have not asked follow up questions or answered questions with much detail. Refocus those students to be better conversationalists by following the Discussion Strategies asked of them.

Optional Activity: 90 Min - The group can write a survey based on the questions above (each pair or threesome can contribute 2 questions each) to be given to other students at the school to better understand their outdoor recreation experience, knowledge, and country specific ways of protecting wildlife and the environment. Teacher can arrange for his/her class to join other classes to have time to go in and survey those students or it could be done casually at lunch or other break periods.



Activity #1 – Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of wildlife can you see in your town/country?
2. Do you have any wildlife in your country that is protected or special in some way?
3. Do you have wilderness areas like national parks in your country that protect wildlife and allow you to enjoy the outdoors? How do you feel about these places and why are these areas important? Have you been to these places yourself?
4. What other experiences have you had learning about wildlife (zoos, aquariums etc)?
5. Have you ever had any interesting experiences with wildlife?
6. What is the natural geography like in your town/country? Do you have beaches, mountains, rivers, lakes, volcanoes, etc?
7. What kinds of outdoor activities are done in your town/country?
8. Have you ever done any outdoor activities either in your town/country or in Canada?
9. What did you do to prepare for these activities described in question #8?
10. Have you ever hiked? If yes, how was the experience? If no, would you like to try it? Why or why not?
11. Have you ever been to Banff National Park or plan to go there? What did you do there or would you plan to do there?
12. What can you recommend about keeping yourself safe when enjoying outdoor activities?