



Human Cameras



This activity for all ages fosters trust, communication, teamwork and attention to detail in nature. For curriculum connections, use the Human Camera activity to jumpstart art or journaling lessons that challenge memory retention.

Materials

Bandannas (cloth, long sleeve shirts) for half of the students.

Journal (or paper) and pen

DO – experience the activity hands-on

Instructions:

1. Divide the class into groups of two. Students will take turns being the Photographer and the Camera. The Photographer will use the bandanna or other cloth to blindfold their partner (the Camera). *Note: the bandanna is not needed if students are able to keep their eyes closed on their own.*
2. With as little talking as possible, have the Photographer walk carefully and cautiously through the forest or garden with the Camera, constantly communicating their course as they are walking.
3. The Photographer selects a subject to "photograph," then positions the Camera physically to line up the shot. This could mean getting down on the ground to get a close-up of a spider, or standing up to capture a tree bud at eye level.
4. To "take the picture," the Photographer taps the Camera on the shoulder. The Camera removes the bandana and opens her eyes for three seconds, then replaces the blindfold.
5. Have the Camera take three different pictures and then switch roles. When finished, gather students to discuss the images the Cameras captured.

REFLECT – share the experience ideas with others

- Did you notice a change in the detail level from your first, second, and third pictures?
- How did your attention to detail change? Why?
- Can you identify a theme or relationship among the images you saw?
- Which of the three snapshots is your favorite image?
- What was it like being blindfolded and physically set up as a Camera?
- What was it like being the Photographer and having to guide your blindfolded partner?

APPLY– connect the experience with real world examples

- Did you learn something about your partner through the exercise?
- Do you have suggestions for how the Photographer might improve their communication to the Camera?

If time allows, have students sketch or write about the details of the images they captured, with or without a second visit to the subjects.

Tips for Facilitators

Ensure students stay within a specified area, and make sure you can see them at all times.

Based on the group dynamic, you may select the pairs or have students choose for themselves.

Remind students that this is an exercise in communication as well as observation.

