

WILDERNESS CURRICULUM GUIDE

WEB I: WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

WEB I CULMINATING ACTIVITY 6: WILDERNESS METAPHORS

GOAL: To review basic understandings about wilderness, including what wilderness is, why it is important, how it can be lost, and who cares for it.

BACKGROUND: Students may view wilderness in a variety of ways. There are a number of reasons for preserving and protecting wilderness areas, including values that relate primarily to the individual and those that relate to the health of a society or the planet as a whole. The objects in the **Wilderness Metaphors Bag** provide a way for students to talk about what wilderness means to them and why they feel it is important to preserve and protect wilderness. Objects and their possible connections to wilderness include:

A wrapped present: wilderness is a gift.

A bag of coins: wilderness has many different values.

An umbrella: wilderness protects species.

An egg beater: wilderness contains a mixture of species and communities.

A picture of the earth: wilderness is important as we learn more about interconnections of life on earth.

A sponge: wilderness watersheds retain water and help ensure water quality.

A coffee filter: trees and plants in wilderness areas filter impurities in the air.

A candle: wilderness preserves natural systems like fire.

A pair of sunglasses: there are different perspectives on wilderness management.

MATERIALS: Wilderness Metaphors Bag.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURES:

- Ask students to summarize orally what they have learned about wilderness.
- Introduce the **Wilderness Metaphors Bag** as a bag full of familiar objects that may help us think about what wilderness is like. Remind students that a metaphor is a literary device in which one thing is directly compared to another, as in “The sun was an orange ball.”
- Ask what objects students think they will find in the bag.
- Have someone select an object from the bag. Ask who can draw a connection between the object and wilderness. Discuss responses, encouraging students to build on other students’ ideas. Assist by strengthening their connections, remembering that students may assign different meanings and values to wilderness.

ENRICHMENT EXTENSIONS:

- Ask students to write a poem (rhymed or free verse) about wilderness using one or more of the metaphors. Or ask each student to complete one line of a group poem.