

Chapter One: Habitats

Blind Trail

EDUCATION BENCHMARK

Describe the relationship between characteristics of specific habitats and the organisms that live there

OBJECTIVE

To use senses other than sight to explore outdoors.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Ball of string
Blindfolds

TIME NEEDED

LOCATION

Park or forest

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

Students use their senses other than sight to explore outdoors by going on a blind trail hike.

BACKGROUND

PREPARATION

Prepare the trail ahead of time.

METHODS

1. Tie a string along a nature trail. It should be at least several hundred yards long. Offer the children a variety of experiences. For example:

- Follow a shady forest path.
- Climb over a moss-covered log.
- Emerge into a sunlit clearing humming with summer bees.
- Go back into the forest on your hands and knees.
- Make the string go up overhead, and down to the ground.

2. Tie a flag on the string wherever there is something to stop and explore (plants, a log, a tree, or an empty animal home).

3. Blindfold each person and let them take the trail. Encourage the group to use their other senses, to be quiet as they go along the trail, and take their time.

4. Take off the blindfolds and let the group go back over the same trail.