



Open-Sky  
School

Category  
PHILOSOPHY  
FOR KIDS



Activity

# Living Beings

## MATERIALS

- Paper and pencils
- Clipboards

## DURATION

40 MINUTES

## Activity Summary

Children's philosophy workshops aim to develop children's ability to think by and for themselves, as well as to introduce them to take a critical look at certain behaviours and social issues.

The aim of this activity is to reflect on the value we place on living beings with whom we share planet Earth.

## Preparation

Choose a quiet spot outside where students can sit comfortably in a circle.



# Steps

This workshop consists of a group discussion in which students sit in a circle and share their ideas without being forced to express themselves. Every idea is valid and can lead to new avenues of thought.

Be prepared to ask questions to stimulate discussion, if necessary.

If you notice that the same students often speak at the expense of others, you can limit the number of times each student speaks. For example, you can ask students to find 3 sticks, leaves, rocks or other objects on the ground, and put one object in the center of the circle each time they take a turn to speak, until they do not have any objects left. At that point, the student can continue to listen to what their peers have to say.

## Questions

- A.** Draw your portrait in the form of a living being (other than a human), for example: a tree, a plant, a bird, an insect.

Give students a approximately ten minutes to draw their portrait.

- B.** Think about the following questions and raise your hand to share your point of view.

1. Which living being have you chosen to represent you? Explain your choice.

1. What difference(s) do you see between a plant or an animal and yourself?

2. Do you value all living things equally? Explain your answer.

3. Are animals free? Explain your answer.

RETURN TO GROUP

1. The discussion can be taken up again in class and supplemented by some research.
2. Is it wrong to kill the mosquito that bites you or to walk on the grass? Is one worse than the other?
3. Is eating a tomato or carrot better than eating chicken?
4. If animals, insects or plants could talk, what wishes or desires would they share with us?

### REINVESTMENT:

Where does the food we eat come from?

How is our food produced?

Do plants and animals think about life? Are they philosophical?