

# General Nature Walk

## *After Your Visit - Activity 1*

### The Future of Sabino Canyon

#### Activity Procedure

1. Begin this activity by reviewing with students things they observed and experienced on their field trip through Sabino Canyon. List things students liked about their trip on the board. Make a separate list of things the students didn't like.
2. Have students take a moment and consider the two lists and ask which of the things they "valued" during their visit. Point out that the things they valued are probably from the list of the things they liked. Lead a discussion of what a "value" is. Ask students about other things in their lives which they might personally value. Explain that things can be valued for different reasons; they might be valuable because they help us survive; something could be valued because it makes us feel good or is fun; something could be valued because we feel it's important in some other way.
3. Next, create a list of the values of Sabino Canyon to the plants and animals that live there and the humans that visit there. Do this by writing the words "plants", "animals", and "humans" on the board in three columns. Review some values as examples such as: a value of Sabino Creek to plants is that it provides habitat for them; a value of the Sabino Creek to the animals is that it provides drinking water for them; humans value Sabino Canyon because they like to hike there, etc. Encourage students to think of other values, working with them to generate a lengthy list on the board.
4. Inform students that Sabino Canyon must be managed for both plants and animals as well as visiting humans. Are the things the humans value the same as what the plants and animals need? Ask students what would happen to each group (plants, animals, and humans) given the following hypothetical environmental changes:

#### Objectives

##### Students will

- \* define and describe the term "value".
- \* create a personal management plan for the future of Sabino Canyon.

What would happen:

- ...if the stream were dammed?
- ...if the stream were polluted with litter and contaminants?
- ...if Sabino Canyon were closed to human visitors?
- ...if cars were allowed to drive into the Canyon?
- ...if a resort and golf course were built in the Canyon?
- ...if human visitors were allowed to wander off the trails, anywhere in the Canyon?
- ...if it rained all year long?
- ...if there were no rain or snowfall in the Santa Catalina Mountains?

Discuss the effects of these occurrences on plants, animals, and humans.

5. Ask the class how they think Sabino Canyon should be managed, how would they like to see Sabino Canyon in the future. Explain that the Forest Service, which manages Sabino Canyon, must consider a variety of possibilities for the future of the Canyon. For example, some people would like to see cars allowed to drive in, while others would like to completely close the canyon to visitors and let the plants and animals remain undisturbed. Other people would like more picnic sites in the canyon. Some would like more recreational opportunities there, like a golf course or resort. It is the job of the Forest Service to meet the needs of as many of the plants, animals, and humans as possible. How would your students like to see Sabino Canyon managed? What would they like the Canyon to look like when they grow up and bring their children there? Have each student write a short story describing Sabino Canyon's future. Their story should indicate their vision of Sabino Canyon in twenty years or so when they will be bringing *their* children there. Students may also choose to write their visions in letter form and send them to the Forest Service. They just might influence the Future of Sabino!

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