Nature walk: APES in the wild

Introduction

As AP Environmental Science students, you will learn about our many natural resources and the ways in which humans interact with them. Enjoying a walk in the woods is one way that can facilitate one’s appreciation of our local resources and develop an understanding of the ways in which we impact our natural spaces.

The Assignment

*A. Take a Hike:*

- Enjoy a walk in a natural area of your choosing. The duration, length, and location of the hike are up to you and your level of comfort. Feel free to bring friends or family members along for the fun.

- There are numerous beautiful hiking options around the Salt Lake valley. You may revisit an old favorite or check out a new area. Several great walking trails are easily accessible from downtown Salt Lake and/or via public transportation. If you are unsure of where to go, some suggestions and personal favorites follow.

* Salt Lake area hiking trails - <http://www.utah.com/saltlake/hiking.htm>
* Hikes near Salt Lake City - <http://www.everytrail.com/best/hiking-salt-lake-city-utah>
* Nat. Geo.’s recommendations for hiking trails in SLC - <http://alltrails.com/us/utah/salt-lake-city>
* Personal favs.:
  + Catherine’s area – Little Cottonwood Canyon
  + Red Pine/White Pine area – Little Cottonwood Canyon
  + Bell Canyon trail – Sandy, UT
  + Bonneville Shoreline Trail – City Creek Canyon
  + Red Butte Canyon Skyline Trail – behind Red Butte garden

- Be sure to be a safe, responsible hiker. The following hiking “rules” should be followed at all times:

* Stay on the trail.
* Hike with a buddy.
* Tell someone responsible of your hiking “plan” (location, time of departure, estimated return time).
* Wear sunscreen.
* Wear a hat.
* Drink and bring along plenty of water.
* Carry out all waste items.
* Don’t remove plant, animal, or rock specimens from the hiking area.

*B. Be a Naturalist:*

- While enjoying your hike, take a moment or two or three to observe, reflect and write about your experience.

- The following topics should be addressed in your writing:

* Observations and thoughts about natural resources that interested you. This can be recorded through both illustration and text. For example, if the geology of the area strikes you as interesting, you may include a sketch and explain why you were drawn to this aspect of your walk.
* Observations and thoughts about human interactions in the area. Describe the human impact(s) encountered during the walk and discuss your opinions of the use of the land. Again, diagrams, pictures and text are useful tools of a naturalist.
* Describe the take-away impression the walk had on you and discuss what you gained by engaging with nature in this way.
* The writing of your adventures in the woods should be done while hiking so that your impressions are fresh in your mind.

*C. The Grade* – Your writing from your hiking experience will be evaluated according to the expectations outlined in the rubric provided below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| **Natural Resources of Interest** | Offers a thorough account of natural resources of interest and explains why it made an impression. May include picture and text. | Offers a description of natural resources of interest and explains why it made an impression, BUT lacks thorough detail and discussion. May include picture and text. | Does not offer a thorough account of natural resources of interest and explanations of why it made an impression. |
| **Human Impact** | Offers a thorough account of human impacts observed in the area and explains why it made an impression. May include picture and text. | Offers an account of human impacts observed in the area and explains why it made an impression, BUT lacks detail. May include picture and text. | Does not offer a thorough account of human impacts observed in the area and explanation of why it made an impression. |
| **Take-Away Impressions** | Discusses in detail what one gained from the hiking experience and explains why one had this “take away” impression. | Discusses what one gained from the hiking experience and explains why one had this “take away” impression, BUT lacks detail. | Does not discuss what one gained from the hiking experience. |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  |