



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Games, Nature, & Experiments

### What is Leave No Trace?

**Estimated Time:** 20 - 60 minutes (per principle)

**Age range:** All grades (with guidance)

**What you need:** paper, writing utensil, printer (optional), additional materials are specified for each principle

#### Background Information:

“The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace provide an easily understood framework of minimum impact practices for anyone visiting the outdoors. Although Leave No Trace has its roots in backcountry settings, the Principles have been adapted so that they can be applied anywhere – from remote wilderness areas, to local parks and even in your own backyard. They also apply to almost every recreational activity. Each Principle covers a specific topic and provides detailed information for minimizing impacts.

“The Seven Principles are well established and widely known, but they are not static. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics continually examines, evaluates and reshapes the Principles. The Center’s Education Department conducts research – including publishing scholarly articles in independent journals – to ensure that the Principles are up to date with the latest insights from biologists, land managers and other leaders in outdoor education.”

The 7 Principles - Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

<https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>

#### Instructions:

Please see each of the seven Leave No Trace principles for ways to learn more about how to minimize your impact on the environment. The seven principles include:

- 1) Plan Ahead & Prepare: Know before you go
- 2) Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces: Choose the right path
- 3) Dispose of Waste Properly: Trash your trash
- 4) Leave What You Find: Take photos, leave footprints
- 5) Minimize Campfire Impacts: Be careful with fire
- 6) Respect Wildlife: Be kind to animals
- 7) Be Considerate to Others: You are not the only visitors

## Games, Nature, &amp; Experiments

## 7) Be Considerate to Others: You Are Not the Only Visitors

**Estimated Time:** 20 minutes**Age range:** All grades (with guidance)**What you need:** writing utensil, paper (or printer)**New Words**

An **outdoor enthusiast** is someone who enjoys spending time outdoors.

**Instructions:**

The last, but equally important Leave No Trace Principle, is to be considerate of other people who are also trying to enjoy the outdoors. Many of us go into the outdoors to escape from the busyness of our everyday lives. We want to listen to the sounds of nature without hearing other people, enjoy trails without having off-leash dogs run around us, and use undamaged amenities. While everyone enjoys the outdoors differently, we want to be considerate of how our actions may be affecting others' experiences. For example, you should think about wearing earbuds if you enjoy listening to music while recreating outside, instead of playing it on a speaker. There might be someone else on the trail trying to listen to birds and other kinds of wildlife. It is also important to always be aware of your surroundings. In order to ensure your safety, keep your music at a low enough volume that you can hear the people and wildlife around you.

There are some general guidelines that trail users follow when they come across others on the trail.

**Considerate Hiker Guidelines:**

- If you would like to pass someone who is in front of you (going in the same direction), you should politely announce your presence, and carefully pass them on the left side of the trail.
- Hikers heading uphill are *always* given priority. If you are hiking downhill on a narrow trail while others hikers are walking up the trail towards you, you are expected to step to the side and let them pass.
- Hikers are expected to step aside for equestrians, and mountain bikers are expected to yield to both hikers and equestrians.

Following these guidelines can ensure that every **outdoor enthusiast** has an enjoyable experience.



Consider the following questions:

Can you think of any other guidelines that you would appreciate as a hiker? What are they?

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Have you ever heard the phrase "treat others how you would like to be treated"? How can we apply this when we are out on a trail with other outdoor enthusiasts?

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Now that we've learned how to Be Considerate to Others on the trail, it's time to test your knowledge!



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## The 'Was That Considerate?' Quiz

### Instructions:

For each scenario, write down or discuss whether the actions taken were appropriate or inappropriate. If an inappropriate action was taken, explain what should have been done instead. Use the spaces provided to record your answers!

### Scenarios:

Charlie and Logan have been planning a backpacking trip with their friends in their local National Forest for months. It is a group of 5 of them and they have not all been together in years, so they are all excited to have a good time. The group hikes all day and gets to their campsite just before sunset. There is another person already there camping with their dog. The group decides to stay because it's getting dark soon and this is where they had planned on camping. Charlie, Logan, and their friends stay up late listening to music on a speaker and talking loudly around a big, bright fire. Were these considerate actions to take?

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Tess and her family are at the summit of a popular mountain. They are a group of 17 and each person wants to get a picture with the view behind them. There are also other hikers there that want their own pictures taken. Tess's family let others take pictures before them since they know they will take a lot of time to get theirs done. Were these actions the best way for Tess's family to be considerate of other visitors?

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Sam and Alex are hiking on a busy trail and need to take a break to eat lunch. Alex wants to stay on the trail to eat, but Sam convinces Alex that it will be better if they go sit on a rock off of the trail. Is this the most considerate action for this scenario?

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Avery is out on a run at a local trail. On their way back down the trail, they see a hiker coming up the steep hill. The trail is narrow and one of them will have to move to the side to let the other pass. Avery knows that they are usually expected to move to the side, giving uphill hikers priority, but they are on track for getting their personal best running time and they don't want to slow down. Avery decides to run by the hiker without stepping aside. Is this the most considerate action for Avery to take?

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Scout loves listening to music while they bike. They attach a speaker to their handlebars so that they can hear the music, while also being able to hear if someone else is coming up behind them. They are biking on a trail commonly used by birders who like to listen to bird calls to identify them. Is Scout listening to music on their speaker acceptable?

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An answer key for the 'Was That Considerate?' quiz can be found on our Virtual Classrooms website.

**Sources:**

<https://Int.org/why/7-principles/>