

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TREES

A British-Brazilian artwork in forest environments

How to be a human sensor

We are using sensor technology connected to a mobile phone to collect information and make the visualizations in our exhibition. This worksheet gives you instructions on how to become a human sensor kit, using your own body. It involves taking a walk around the woods and using the senses in your body to measure the invisible things around you. You can do it in a group or on your own.

First you need to make a note of:

Date: ____/____/ 11 Time: ____:____ Location: _____

Now you can head out into the woods and investigate. There are six ways you can sense the environment. Use the scales and mark the number you choose.

Light

Find a tree and stand underneath it. Measure the light that you are able to sense under the tree on the scale below. 1 is the darkest place you have ever been and 10 is the brightest place. Can you think of where those places are? Now face up into the tree? What number would that be? Mark it on the scale When you're done, find a new tree...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Dark

Light

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Temperature

Temperature is how hot or cold something is. How do you know if something is hot or cold? Think about the hottest place you have ever been. Where is the coldest place you have ever been? Maybe outside in the snow or in the fridge? What is it under your tree? Now find another one....

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Cold

Hot

Humidity

Humidity is how wet or dry the air is. Where is the wettest place you've ever been? What about the driest place? How wet or dry is the air under your tree? How are you sensing the air? Move to a new tree....

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Dry

Wet

Decibels

Decibels are the noise levels around you. What is the loudest or quiet can you be? Sense how loud you think it is under this tree. Include all the sounds you are able to sense like other people, planes and birds. Then move on to the next tree...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Quiet

Loud

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Wind levels

Measure the wind levels you can feel whilst standing under the tree on the scale below. Listen to the sound of wind, can you hear it? Can you see the branches moving? How are you sensing it? What number would you choose? Next tree!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Calm

Windy

Air quality

Measure the pollution in the air. Can you smell chemicals or flowers? Are there any trails of smoke from factories, trails from planes, can you smell cars? Decide based on the most smokey and polluted air you have breathed or the most bright, clear and fresh air you have ever breathed. What is it where you are now?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Fresh

Polluted

You've now got a full set of data

Take this sheet back to the gallery and see if you can **compare your measurements to the artwork**, and see what the differences might be. You can also pick up a sheet and find out how to **draw your own data map**.

A Conversation Between Trees has been developed by Active Ingredient in collaboration with Silvia Leal, MarkSelby and Mike Golembowski, Horizon Digital Economy Research (University of Nottingham), Estudio Experimental Movel and Carlo Buontempo (Senior Climate Change Scientist, Hadley Centre, UK MET office).

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