

“Natural Symbols”

Short description	The participants match the values described and illustrated in their story with object found in nature that they think goes with those values. They present the object and explain the connection they made to the group, and are ready to listen to the presentations of others.
Topics	Personal values, the group and me
Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and explain one’s own values with the help of symbols • Acknowledge the subjective nature of personal values and their function
Setting	Unlimited, whole group
Time frame	45 - 60 min
Materials	Object chosen by the individual (which they searched for or came across in nature), serviettes, flip chart paper
Instructions	<p>The participants are asked to seek in the natural environment a small object that can symbolise the values outlined in their history. In the instructions for the exercise it should be stressed that their search must be independent and well thought out. Once found the object should be wrapped in a paper serviette and brought into the group room. The participants sit in a circle in the middle of which is a large blank piece of paper. One person initiates a round of presentations: the object is carefully unwrapped, shown to the others and the mental connection to the object is explained. After each presentation the object is carefully laid on the paper in the middle. Each brief presentation can be rewarded with applause. The presentations must be heard in an attentive and supportive manner. In the course of this exercise an interesting and meaningful image emerges with a rich potential for raising awareness in a way that deepens mutual understanding: diversity, differences and areas in common, confirmations and surprises in relation to others’ assessments, creative forces in the class, varied and stimulating associations. Finally, the image that emerges is submitted for group reflection, including on the process of its emergence (e.g. the ways in which the objects of others were dealt with, the effect of attentive listening, and also of any disruptive behaviour). At the end of this sequence, the participants should take a photo of the image they created together with their phones so that they can upload it during the follow-up to the module in their individual project diary (see instruction sheet 2.6).</p> <p><i>Outlook:</i></p> <p>The image is also to be saved in some form in the classroom for further work.</p>

Example of a collection of natural objects

