

# Sharing Circle

**Grade Level:** all levels

**Duration:** one 15 to 30-minute class period

**Skills:** discussion and evaluation

**Subjects:** language arts, science, and fine arts (with additional activity)

## Concepts

- Bridge the classroom and the local environment.
- Gain first hand knowledge through an outdoor experience (based on the field trip.)
- Discover the ecosystem through multi-sensory experiences (based on the field trip.)

## Overview

Students discuss the field trip and share what new information they discovered and what they especially enjoyed about their experience.

## Objectives

After this activity, students will be able to:

- Give a verbal summary their field trip activities.
- Describe their favorite part of the field trip.
- Give at least one example of something new they learned on the field trip.

## Vocabulary

There is no specific vocabulary for this activity.

## Materials

- large sheet of butcher paper
- markers

## Optional

- **Shorebird Journal** (Basic journal pages found in the Field Trip Journals section)
- **Field Trip Activity Sheets** for Lower Elementary Students (found in the Field Trip Journal section)

## Introduction

Since this is a summary activity, there is no introductory information for this activity.

## Procedure

1. Gather the students in a circle to share what they experienced or observed during their field trip. This activity can be done on-site, on the bus ride back to school, or later in the classroom.
2. Have students finish the sentence: “My favorite thing today was....,” or “One thing I learned today was...” Then record their responses on a large piece of butcher paper to post in the classroom.
3. If you used a Shorebird Journal as part of the field trip, have the students complete the post-field trip pages. Pass out the Habitat and Memories Drawing Frames for younger students that did not use a Shorebird Journal (Field trip Activity Sheets for Lower Elementary Students found in the Field Trip Journal section) for younger students.

## Additional Activity

### *Field Trip Mural*

Hang a large white sheet or long piece of butcher paper in the hall outside your classroom. Brainstorm a list of field trip activities and experiences students could visually represent on a mural. Combine the list into “scenes” and assign teams to complete a “scene” in one section of the mural. Make sure everyone in the class signs their work. Take a class picture with the mural. Send the picture along with a thank you note to chaperones, site staff, and anyone else that helped with the field trip.

### *Field Trip Press Release*

Refer to the classroom activity Shorebird News (located in The Big Shorebird Picture section of this activity chapter.) Guidelines for writing a press release are included with the Shorebird News activity. Be sure to include the picture of your field trip mural and a caption describing your class with your press release.

