

Ways of Knowing in Nature: The Effects of Place on Knowledge & Intuition

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This conversation-starter is written as a follow-up to the [one-sheet about “The Molemen and Plato’s Cave Today,”](#) on Episode 1 of Philosophy Bakes Bread.

This topic is an invitation to explore *what it means to know*, and how *the way we attend to the world affects both the way we know things as well as what we know*.

Beautiful places inspire us. People often visit beautiful natural settings to experience a connection to the world and to spend time outdoors. Some people say they come to seek understanding, or to develop a deeper relationship with nature. In this conversation, we will explore how being in nature may affect not just what we know, but how we know, and how this knowledge is connected to science and intuition.

Questions:

- 1) What is the difference between scientific knowing and experiential knowing?
- 2) What is the difference between knowledge and intuition related to nature?
- 3) What are different ways of understanding and relating to the world when we are in less modified environments?
- 4) What does it mean to have a relationship to nature?
 - a) What do we mean by nature?
- 5) Why are scientific facts more comfortable or valued?
- 6) What kind of vulnerability do you need to cultivate a more intimate relationship with nature?
- 7) How does a greater connection with nature help us to know ourselves?
- 8) Is experiencing beauty a way of knowing?