

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 do we mean by nature?
- 2) What does it mean to have a relationship to nature?
- 3) What is the difference between knowledge and intuition related to nature?
- 4) What are different ways of understanding and relating to the world when we are in less modified environments?
- 5) How does a greater connection with nature help us to know ourselves?
- 6) Is experiencing beauty a way of knowing, and if so, how does it differ from knowledge in the physical sciences?
- 7) What obligations does the public have to make beautiful environments accessible to all?