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**Book Review Sharing Assignment**

**Book Citation:** Nabhan, G. P., & Trimble, S. (1994). The geography of childhood: Why children need wild places. Boston: Beacon Press.

**Type of Literature:** collection and collaboration of essays.

**Author Biography:** Gary Paul Nabhan was born on March 17, 1952 in Gary, Indiana. He attended [Prescott College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prescott_College) in Arizona, earning a B.A. in Environmental Biology, a M.S. in plant sciences from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in the interdisciplinary arid lands resource sciences. He spent most of his life focused on conservation and preservation, which helped his contribution to the book “The Geography of Children”. He is also mainly known for his natural/cultural history writings.

Stephen Trimble was born and raised in Denver Colorado. After studying liberal arts education at Colorado College, he worked as a park ranger in Colorado and Utah. He then earned a master’s degree in ecology at the University of Arizona, and served as director of the Museum of Northern Arizona Press. He has been a full-time free-lance writer and photographer since 1981.

**Professional Significance:** As outdoor professionals this book has a whole lot to offer. Setting aside all hard skills that we work on, this book gives us the ability to see what we as a society are doing wrong, and why children need to be exposed to natural wilderness type places. We learn this through statistical information, and past stories and experiences that the two authors share with us. I see this book as a motivational tool for all professionals not only in the outdoor realm, but also in any job involving children.

**Book Summary: (Topics, Storyline, Themes)** This book is written with alternating sets of essays between the two authors on the positive impact the natural world can have on children. As fathers, and naturalists, the authors are concerned about the lack of contact urban, suburban, and even rural children have with the natural world, including plants and animals. Both Nabhan and Trible talk about their past experiences traveling the States and how their children acted during that time. Both authors have children making it easy for them to relate their real life experiences with their writings in the book.

There are a total of eight essays in the book that discuss the following. Ways that young children investigate and play in an outdoor setting, children's development of competence and self-esteem through experiences in the natural world, rites of passages, differences in the ways that men and women relate to the land, environmental education, growing up on isolated ranches, the development and appreciation for all wildlife; and camping and hiking with dogs and children.

Both authors also do an exceptional job of bringing us, the readers back into our youth when reading this book; especially in chapters one and two. I personally think that childhood is such an adventurous part of one’s life, and that you don’t understand the importance of what was learned through observing, discovering and imitating nature until you get to an age where you are able to reflect back on those experiences. The wilderness does an amazing job at increasing curiosity and knowledge that all children need to better understand the world we live in today.

**Books significance in regard to leisure, outdoor recreation and the profession:**

What I say in this section may sound redundant to what I have said in previous sections. I feel like this book can, and does play a significant role in outdoor recreation as a profession. It offers not only the “regular person” but the outdoor enthusiast a chance to see how children are receiving and gathering information about the natural world, and in a nutshell are not doing much of that at all. Reading this book as an outdoor professional can give you the upper hand when creating talks and programs guided towards youth.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. As a child, how did you learn about the environment? Was it from your parents, a camp, yourself, the media, etc.
2. What may happen now that so many more children are denied exposure to the wilderness than at any time in human history? Is our youth going to grow up wanting to explore?
3. When you were in either grade school, or middle school, do you remember having a lot of outdoor learning opportunities? If so, what were they, and do you think you benefited from them?

**The books impact on me as a person, and as a future professional:**

Overall, I enjoyed this book as it brought up many interesting thoughts about children and their experiences with nature. This book heavily reminded me of a book I read a few summers ago at camp titled “Last Child In The Woods”. You may have heard of it. In this book there were many questions that the authors brought up which raised my eyebrows and gave me that “ah ha” moment. As a future interpreter, this book opened my eyes to what children want and need, hopefully making my job creating my talks that much easier. I plan on getting this book myself and using it as a resource in the future.

**Recommendations:**

I would recommend this book especially for those who live or work with children; also those who plan on having children as well. This book can bring about questions about your own childhood experiences with nature making it an enjoyable read, as it is easily relatable. It is a fairly easy read and has a lot of provoking information making you want to know more!