



A fun game that combines climbing techniques training and discovering the biodiversity of rocks during an autonomous climbing session.



Topic

1-2 hours

Flora

Fauna

Climbing specific



Participants

- know something
- understand something
- are able to do a lot of great things



Suitable for

Climbing beginners:
children and adults
otherwise: children



Practical sessions



Outdoor F2F



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Materials needed

Specific game board → see resources below
OR follow links below (*please note these resources are in French*)

<https://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/livretescalade.pdf>

Silhouettes of animals

<https://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/planchesilhouettes.pdf>

A die



Preparation

Lay out the game board and place items (like pictures of animal silhouettes) on different routes on the rock wall.

Activity instruction

This is the climbing version for goose game. Climbers roll a dice and stand on the corresponding box. On each box there is a different task.

- Environmental tasks: finding some real plants or animal silhouettes on the cliff (please make sure that no plants are removed).
- Climbing tasks: energetically or technical tasks like making pumps, climbing up and down, attached climbing shoes, blindfolded climbing...

All participants do the activities in autonomy, while the guide or coach assists where necessary.

The person who has reached the central box first wins.



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Reflection and discussion

After the winner(s) is/are celebrated, you can lead a short reflection to learn more about the flora and fauna in this habitat. Possible questions might be:

- How can flora and fauna survive in this special environment? (you can give some examples like change of temperature, lack of water and humus to explain about the special challenges) How have some inhabitants survived? (e.g. relicts from the last glacial period that survived at the bottom or the top of the rock wall)
- How have they adapted to their environment?
- How do we have to behave to not disturb or destroy this habitat? This topic can be discussed for climbing and for route bolting too.
- The reflection can be open about all the part of a climbing trip: transport, approach, etc...
- If possible, it would be interesting to make a comparison with a virgin cliff and a climbing cliff.



Potential Variations

With post-it, it's possible to adapt the game to the biodiversity's local specificities.

In the next climbing session, you can give every participant a card with silhouettes of plants or animals that they have to place in the correct habitat, height etc. to recapitulate the lessons learned.



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Background knowledge

Some background knowledge or examples on flora and fauna and their survival strategies might be helpful.

Examples of plants adaptations :

- succulent that keep water in their leaves
- plants that can dry themselves in the summer and during dry periods and reactivate through humidity
- plants with long taproots to capture water, humidity and minerals deep in the cracks or holes in the rock
- plants with short roots to adapt to thin humus layer on the ledges
- ivy spikes for climbing along trees and rocks...

Examples of fauna adaptations :

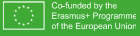
- nests in holes and cracks for birds to protect themselves of rain or wind
- raptors' choice of nest orientation for the breeding period to protect eggs and babies of hot temperature in summer
- bats' biomechanical adaptations to sleep upside down
- adaptation on fauna's feet to climb the rock (lizards, gecko, chamois,...)

Literature

In French version : Outils pédagogiques pour l'escalade. (2020). Gorges de l'Ardèche Syndicat de Gestion <https://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/livretescalade.pdf>



GOOSE GAME



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And more to find for other sports (again in French): Brochures and documentation

<https://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr/pratique/brochures-et-documentation/>



Key words

#biodiversity
#rockclimbing
#fauna
#flora



Source

Outils pedagogiques pour l'escalade / SGGA
<https://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/livretescalade.pdf>



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Materials



<https://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/livretescalade.pdf>