

WORK SMARTS™

Nature Smart

What Is It?

Nature smarts (or naturalistic intelligence) is the ability to know about and relate well to one's natural surroundings. This includes having a greater sensitivity to nature and one's place within it, being able to nurture and grow things, and easily caring for and interacting with animals. It may also include being able to discern changes in weather or fluctuations in the natural surroundings. In other words, people with highly developed nature smarts tend to understand the natural world of plants and animals. They enjoy exploring and working outdoors.

How They Learn

People with nature smarts learn best when they are able to explore their natural environment. They learn well through outdoor activities, learning and classifying things, and watching science and nature videos. They enjoy working with maps, historical photos, and virtual landscapes. They tend to more easily retain information gained from field trips, nature walks, being in classes held outdoors, and wildlife protection projects. Many nature smart people prefer their learning to include physical activity.

Nature Smarts & Careers

Nature smart people are best suited for occupations that involve studying, nurturing, and relating information about their natural surroundings. They have a tremendous sensitivity to nature. They are also good at growing plants or caring for, training, and interacting with animals. They can understand and explain environmental changes and effects. They are intelligent when it comes to observing, understanding, and organizing patterns in the natural environment. Such skills are useful in occupations such as botanist, landscaper, and park ranger, as well as many of the new "green" careers intended to help the environment.

Keep This in Mind

Look at the big picture – You probably have and use most of the eight intelligences to some degree or another throughout your daily life. You may even excel at multiple intelligences and use them effectively in your career. That's why it can be useful to read through the materials for each intelligence.

Develop career aspirations – The theory of multiple intelligences can help you explore intelligences you possess and then use this knowledge to help you make career choices. Remember that the *Work Smarts* assessment is not designed to match you with an occupation, but it can help you explore many occupations related to your intelligences that you might not have considered before.

Embrace your strengths – Remember that multiple intelligences stretch over a wide spectrum of abilities, not just those traditionally valued by society, such as English and math. Now is your chance to see the different ways that you are intelligent and to capitalize on your strengths.

Don't ignore hidden intelligences – The theory of multiple intelligences allows you to identify and work to develop your hidden or underdeveloped intelligences. It is never too late to awaken unused abilities. Doing so can even open up career paths that you will find more productive and rewarding.

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." – Albert Einstein

Top Occupations for Nature Smart People

Veterinarians diagnose and treat diseases and dysfunctions of animals. They may engage in a particular function, such as research and development, consultation, administration, technical writing, sale or production of commercial products, or rendering of technical services to commercial firms or other organizations.

Outlook: Much-faster-than-average (21% or higher) growth with a need for 34,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$75,230/year

Animal Trainers train animals for riding, harness, security, performance, obedience, or assisting persons with disabilities.

They accustom animals to human voice and contact and condition animals to respond to commands. They train animals according to prescribed standards for show or competition and may train animals to carry pack loads or work as part of pack team.

Outlook: Much-faster-than-average (21% or higher) growth with a need for 17,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$26,190/year

Environmental Scientists and Specialists conduct research or perform investigation for the purpose of identifying, abating, or eliminating sources of pollutants or hazards that affect either the environment or the health of the population. They utilize knowledge of various scientific disciplines and may collect, synthesize, study, report, and take action based on data derived from measurements or observations of air, food, soil, water, and other sources.

Outlook: Much-faster-than-average (21% or higher) growth with a need for 42,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$58,380/year

Park Naturalists plan, develop, and conduct programs to inform the public of historical, natural, and scientific features of national, state, or local park.

Outlook: Slower-than-average (3% to 6%) growth with a need for 7,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$56,150/year

Nature Smart Workplace Skills

Knowledge of chemical composition, structure, and processes and transformations.

Knowledge of plants and animals and their interactions with each other and the environment.

Knowledge of principles and methods for describing the features of land, sea, or air masses.

The ability to detect illness or unhealthy conditions requiring care in plants and animals.

Profiles in Intelligence

John Audubon was an American naturalist, painter, and cataloger of the birds of North America. He laid the foundation for much of our understanding of bird's anatomy and behavior. The National Audubon Society was incorporated and named in his honor to conserve and restore natural ecosystems and to preserve the habitats of birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

MI Resources

Multiple Intelligences: New Horizons in Theory and Practice, Howard Gardner

7 Kinds of Smart: Identifying and Developing Your Multiple Intelligences, Thomas Armstrong

www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm

www.newhorizons.org/strategies/mi/front_mi.htm