

EXCERPT FROM

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES LEARNING STYLE WORKBOOK

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NATURALISTIC INTELLIGENCE



This intelligence reflects a person's awareness of attunement to the forces, principles and laws of nature. People with a strong naturalistic intelligence show expertise in distinguishing among members of a species; recognizing the existence of other neighbouring species; and charting out the relations, formally or informally among several species. They find natural classification systems, such as the Linnaeus system quite easy to learn. Culturally, this intelligence has been broadly recognized by honouring those who developed skill and knowledge in folk taxonomies, herbal lore, hunting rituals, and animal spirit mythologies.

This intelligence also reflects strong awareness to living things, natural phenomena and strong ecological awareness. In this post-industrial society, this intelligence is extremely important to cultivate in people of all ages. This is the intelligence that draws you to commune with animals and plants, to spend time out of doors with the elements and the scenery. It also sparks our interest in learning about biology, zoology, and so on - including the workings of the human body.

Naturalistic intelligence designates the human ability to discriminate among living things (plants, animals) as well as sensitivity to other features of the natural world (clouds, rock configurations, etc.) This ability was clearly of value in our evolutionary past as hunters, gatherers, and farmers; it continues to be central in such roles as biologist, botanist or ecologist. Howard Gardner speculated that much of our consumer society exploits our naturalistic intelligence, which can be mobilized in the discrimination among cars, sneakers, kinds of makeup and the like. The kind of pattern recognition valued in certain of the sciences may also draw upon naturalistic intelligence.

**Thinks by Distinguishing
Order and Taxonomies**

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES INVENTORY

This inventory is based on Howard Gardner's theory that we each have seven different intelligences that we draw from when we learn, play, and work. Sometimes we use one kind of intelligence more than another; at other times we combine two or more to help us learn something or to perform a task or activity. Most of us have a couple of strong intelligences, several medium, and a few weak areas, but we all have some ability in each one of the areas.

The inventory you are about to do will help you to identify how you use the seven multiple intelligences. There are no right or wrong answers and you may change an answer at any time. The inventory will ask you to compare yourself to ideas and descriptions. If the statement describes you MOST of the time, then check it.

The seven intelligences you will be exploring are: linguistic, logical-mathematical, intrapersonal, spatial, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, and interpersonal. You will have two scores in each intelligence, one intelligence on each page. By adding your total in each intelligence, you will be able to compare scores to see which is your strongest intelligence, and so forth. You may want to transfer your scores to the scale below (for those of you who are dominant in logical-mathematical or spatial intelligences) so that you can see how they compare. This inventory is basically an INTRApersonal activity, but, for those of you strong in INTERpersonal intelligence, please feel free to discuss this with your family and friends.