

Thomas Dambo TROLLS

Save the humans

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THE WILD CENTER

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TEACHER GUIDE

This guide leads self-guided tours of six giant trolls by artist Thomas Dambo, focusing on themes of sustainability, conservation, and the creative potential of reclaimed materials. **For a guided experience, see our [School Programs webpage](#) or email Chris Werni at schoolprograms@wildcenter.org.** All six Trolls are scattered around the outdoor campus and can be located using the attached map. Scan the QR Code to learn more.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES/PROMPTS FOR STUDENTS

Short on time? The two most accessible Trolls (with space for group activities) are Sofus Lotus and Basse Buller, located at the Stickwork Sculpture and Pines Play Area, respectively

SOFUS LOTUS

Stickwork



Prompts

- How does standing/sitting change how you feel about your surroundings?
- Name one thing you can observe with each of your senses.
- If Sofus could talk, what piece of advice might he give?

Activities

- Stop for 60 seconds and draw or list every natural sound you hear.
- Have students only step in shadows while on the trails.
- Have students organize themselves by birthday without speaking.

BASSE BULLER

Pines Play Area



Prompts

- What is one activity that helps you feel calm and focused?
- What natural shapes do you see around you that Basse might use in his art?
- What might Basse paint to encourage us to be better Earth stewards?

Activities

- Create “nature faces” out of natural objects.
- Fairy houses/toad homes building with natural materials.
- Have students build shelters in the Pines Play Area.

RONJA REDEYE

Museum Entrance



Prompts

- What symbol would be on your flag if you were an activist like Ronja?
- What is one thing you notice around you that you find beautiful?
- What message would you share with the Trolls?

Activities

- Students describe the smallest thing they can see to a partner.
- Students create an activist flag with a symbol of their choice.
- Write a message using the Troll Alphabet (available on website).

IBBI PIP

Forest Music



Prompts

- What part of Ibbi’s design makes you feel the most safe/at home?
- How has Ibbi used reclaimed materials to provide for the forest?
- What are other ways we can use reclaimed materials in the forest?

Activities

- Students can work together to find/list out the other things birds need to survive in the forest.
- Play camouflage with students in Forest Music.
- Use the Merlin app to identify birds.

KAMMA CAN

Fen Trail



Prompts

- What is the necklace made of?
- What would you build using the same reclaimed materials?
- How might making a necklace for another person contribute to an activist movement?

Activities

- “Trash” scavenger hunt around The Wild Center campus.
- Make art/jewelry out of reclaimed materials (bottles, cardboard, etc.)
- Do Raquette River Roll! Identify reclaimed materials utilized.

ROSA SUNFINGER

Parking Lot



Prompts

- What is the symbolism of using a car as a planter?
- Have you noticed nature making a comeback in “human-made” places?
- What are ways we can incorporate nature in our daily lives?

Activities

- Use iNaturalist app to identify plants in sunny/shady areas and compare.
- Nature journaling using the plants growing with Rosa as inspiration.
- Students to find 4-5 given colors around Wild Center campus