

Affordances In Nature

Hunter Groff

1. Stick

A stick affords...

- Leaning (walking stick)
- Supporting weight
- Hanging items
- Crushing things
- Hitting enemies
- Playing with
- Snapping
- Stabbing
- Roasting marshmallows
- Creating fire
- Burning in a fire
- Whittling to a shape
- Shredding into chips
- Use in architecture
- Retrieving items
- Scraping things



2. Tree

A tree affords...

- Climbing
- Hanging items
- Leaning
- Shading from sun
- Tapping
- Chopping
- Burning
- Some bark affords eating
- Living for animals



3. Rock

A rock affords...

- Crushing things
- Picking up
- Throwing
- Skipping
- Sharpening
- Being sharpened
- Piling
- Polishing
- Breaking
- Supporting surface
- Painting
- Melting into magma
- Holding something down
- Chiseling
- Washing



A Non-human Perspective

Animals and plants recognizing affordances

1. Trees

As trees grow, their branches stretch outward and upward. This demonstrates both an awareness that the sun provides energy, and an awareness that their own branches create shade blocking the sun. In other words, they recognize that their own limbs do not afford the passage of light.



2. Beavers

Beavers are highly capable of apprehending their natural environment. They are aware that water affords containment, so they build dams to create a still pond for their homes. In doing so, they also represent their awareness of the affordances of their materials (logs and mud). They are aware that wood affords being gnawed and that mud affords being packed. They are also aware that these materials afford impermeability to water.



3. Spiders

Spiders spin webs to catch their prey. In doing so, they recognize that their webs afford sticking, as do the animals that get caught in them. They also understand that the surfaces they attach their webs to (plants, rocks, or things made by humans) afford support. Finally, they recognize that their webs afford supporting weight, so they can walk on them.

**NO PICTURES
INCLUDED;
SPIDERS
FREAK ME
OUT**