

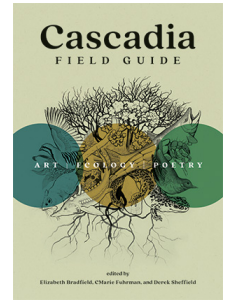
Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry

Elizabeth Bradfield, CMarie Fuhrman, Derek Sheffield

ISBN: 978-1-68051-622-7

[Mountaineers Books](#), 2023

www.cascadiaguide.com



Newsflash! Interview a Cascadia Being

Adaptable for different grade levels from late Elementary to Secondary

Write a script and present a creative interview with a Cascadia being that will captivate the audience and reveal more about the hopes, dreams, hardships, and daily life of that being.

- Time required: Several hours to one week
- Materials needed: paper, writing utensils, optional: recording devices
- Setting: Indoor—in the classroom or at home

Background

Everyone appreciates a compelling interview, whether it is with a favourite actor, musician, political figure, author, athlete, or other person of interest. Interviews give us information, expand upon what we may know from other sources, clarify facts or bust myths, and offer valuable new perspectives. A good interview can inspire, ignite our imagination, and allow us to empathize with the subject.

If only we could interview non-human beings... Well, now is your chance! In this activity you will get to know the hidden life of a Cascadia Being.

Procedure

- Choose a partner. One person will be the interviewer and one will be the Cascadia being. (This could also be done as a solo activity where one person writes the script for both.)
- Choose a being from the *Cascadia Field Guide* to interview. Read about that being in the guide and do additional research if necessary.
- As you read about your being, take note of possible interview questions that you can answer with the information available.
- Work with your partner to choose 4-8 interview questions (depending on age level of the group). Asking the right kinds of questions will elicit more interesting and meaningful responses. See the **Interview Tips**, below.
- Work with your partner to write answers to the interview questions.
- Develop a script that includes both questions and answers.
- Options for a final product:
 1. A written interview script as a magazine or newspaper article, or
 2. A voice recording of the interview as a podcast or radio clip.

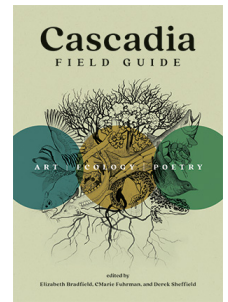
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Some Interview Tips:

- Start with a question (and answer) that introduces the audience to the being.
Examples:
 - o what's your name?
 - o where do you live?
 - o tell me about your childhood
 - o what's your favorite meal?
- Ask open-ended questions (avoid Yes/No questions).
- Ask follow-up questions.
- Keep questions brief.
- Get into the mind of your Cascadia being! Base your answers on facts, but add your own stories and what *could* be possible if that being could speak and share their experiences.
- Politely challenge the subject. For example, the interviewer could introduce a myth or "fake news" about the being and give the being an opportunity to tell their side of the story. Example:
 - o Interviewer to Mountain Beaver: "I have heard that you live only in the mountains. Why is that?"
 - o Mountain Beaver: Actually, I've never even been to the mountains!
- Consider looking at celebrity interviews to get ideas.
- If you are making a recording of the interview, practice! Be your character and consider their voice, mood, and personality. Have fun with it!

by Stephanie Weinstein, Environmental Educator based in Lkwungen territory in Victoria, BC, Canada