ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ LITERACY

What does it mean to be ‘literate’ in something?

~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ LITERACY

What are you literate in?

~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ LITERACY

How have you become literate?

~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ LITERACY



Cognitive



Psychological



Physical

ENVIRONMENTAL ~~LITERACY~~

What do you think about when you hear ‘environment’ or ‘environmental’?


1. Woodland


2. Artificial pond


3. Farmland


4. Street


5. Limestone Quarry


6. Plastic Bottle Bird Feeder


7. Sea

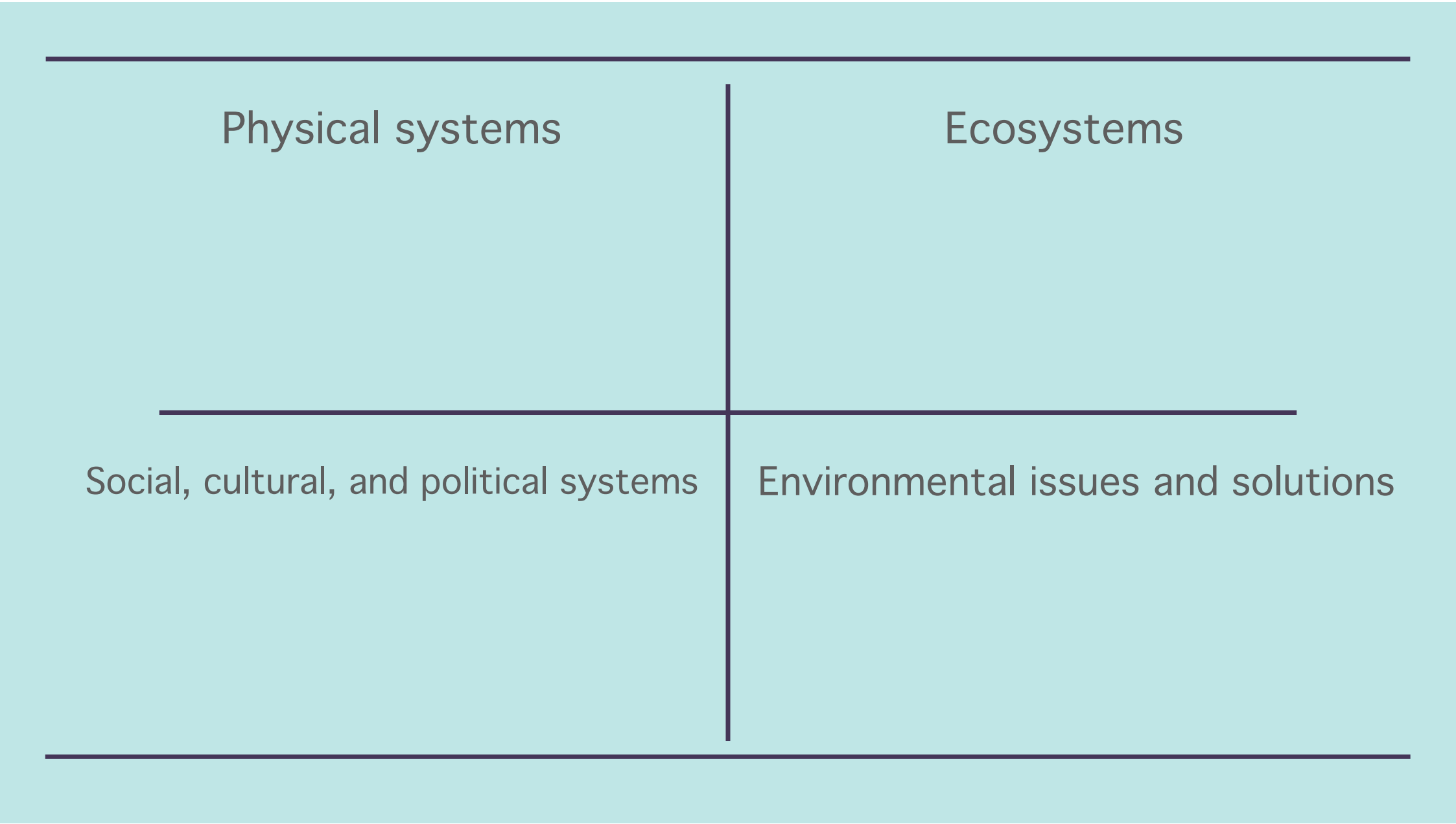

8. Aquarium


9. Urban Fox


10. House / Bungalow


11. Greenhouse


12. Sunset from a Parking Lot


Physical systems
Ecosystems
Social, cultural, and political systems
Environmental issues and solutions

The Outdoor Learning Professional is ideally placed to influence and educate those we come into contact with, children and adults, about climate change and biodiversity threats, impact and possible solutions

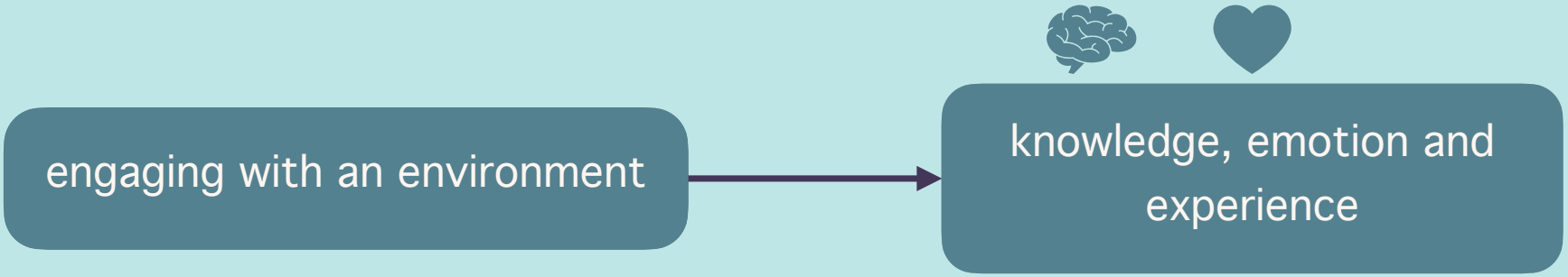
Institute for Outdoor Learning (2026)

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

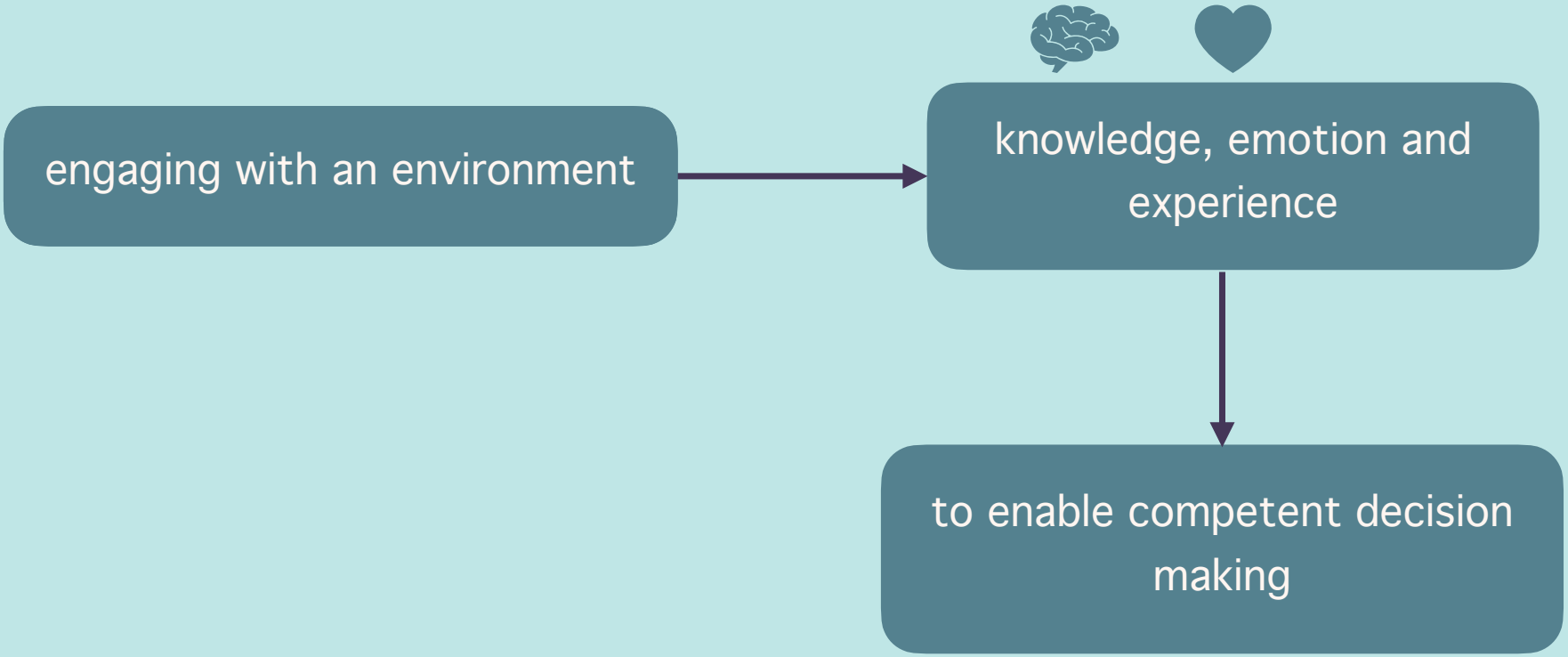
ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

engaging with an environment

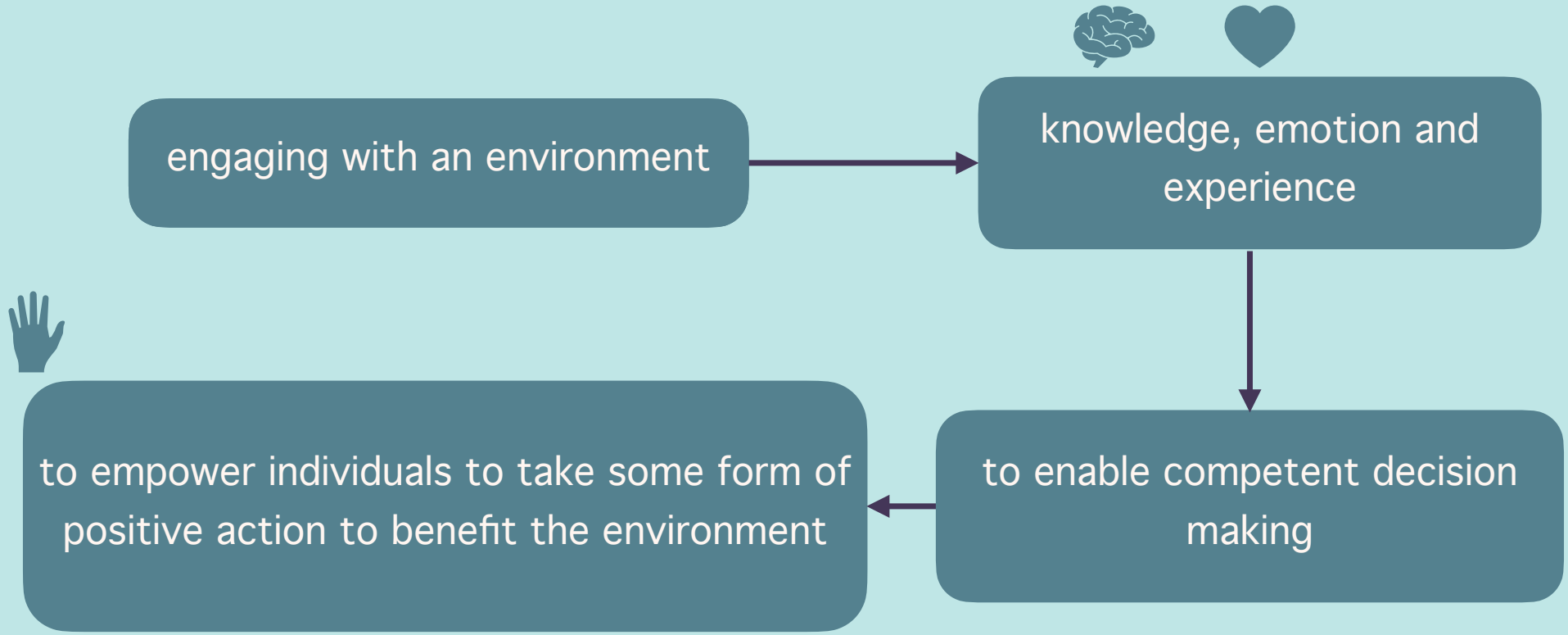
ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY



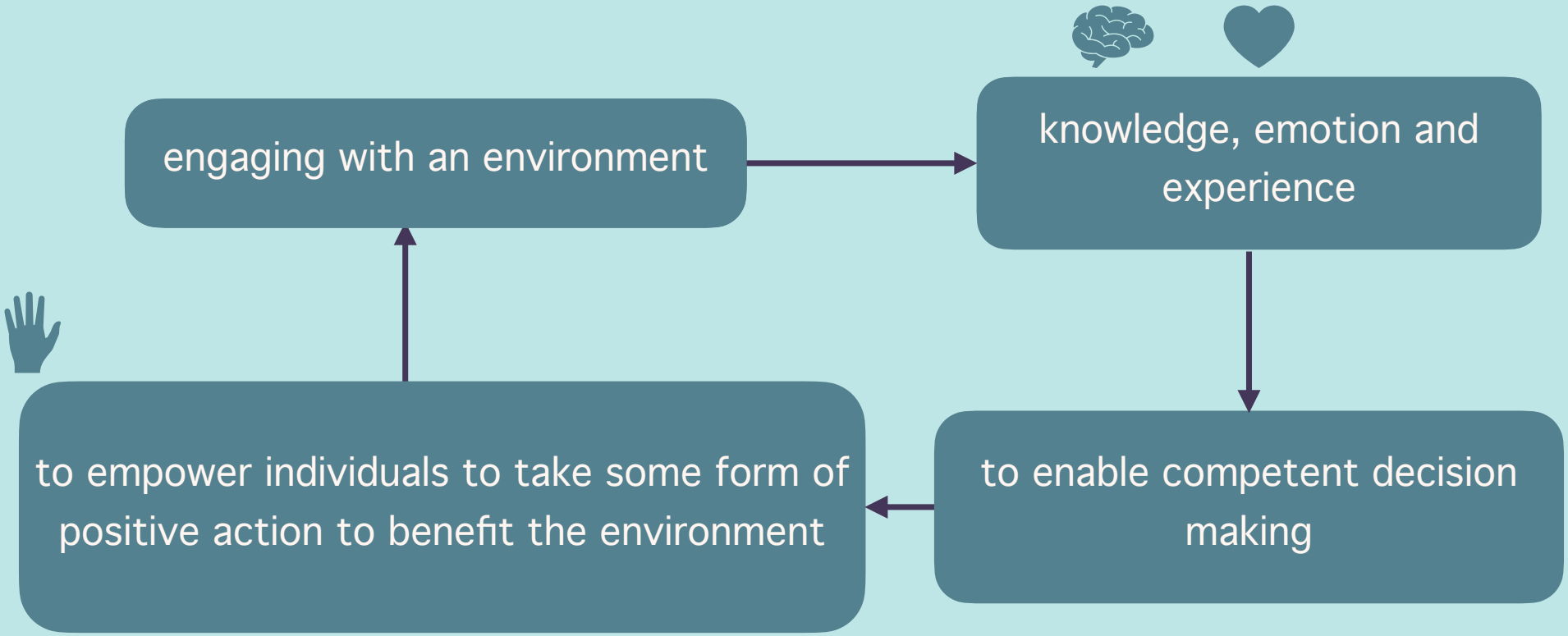
ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY



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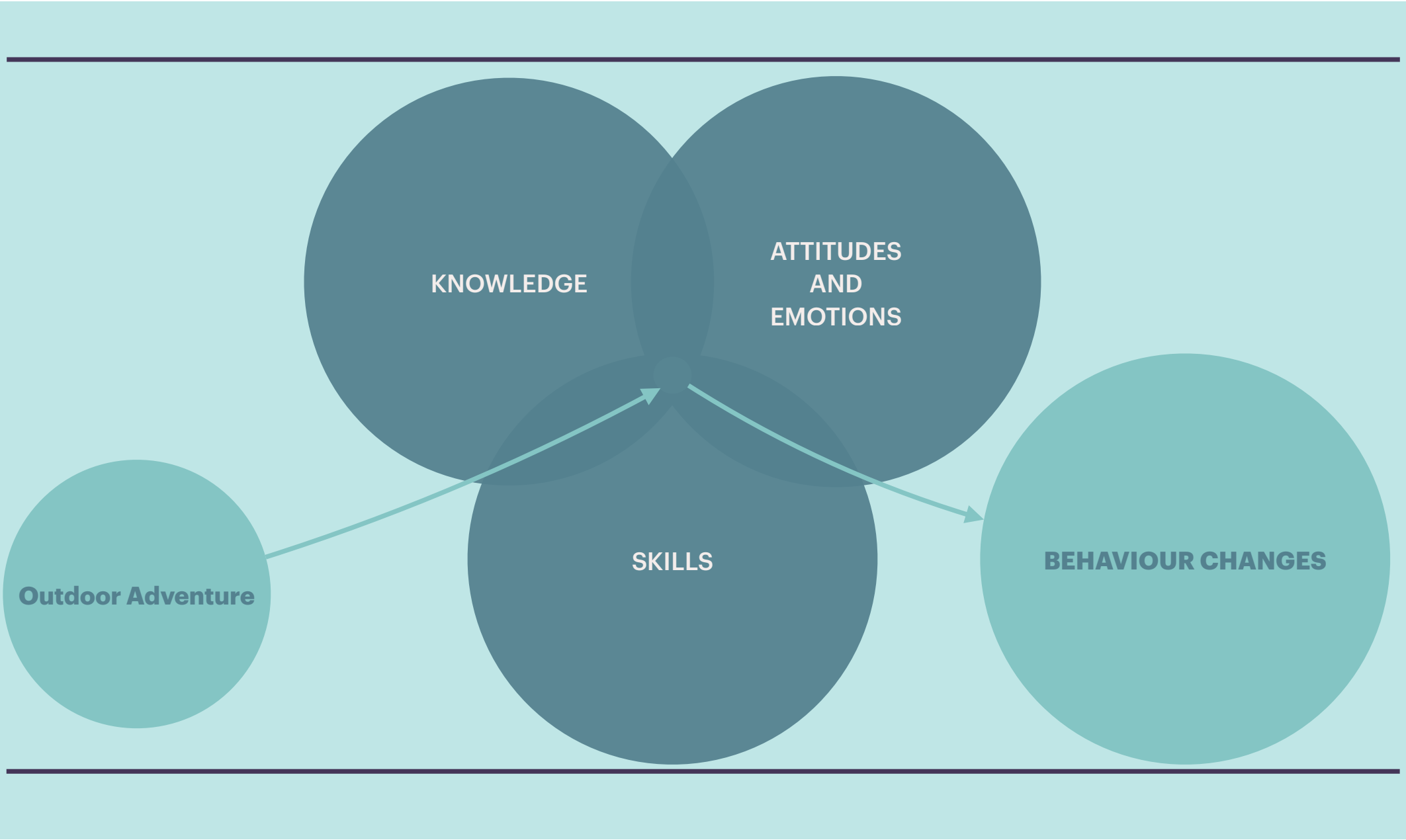


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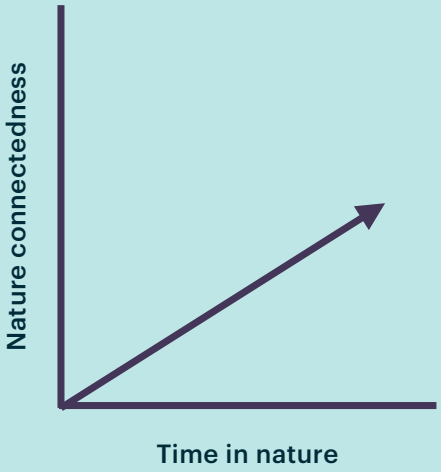


ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

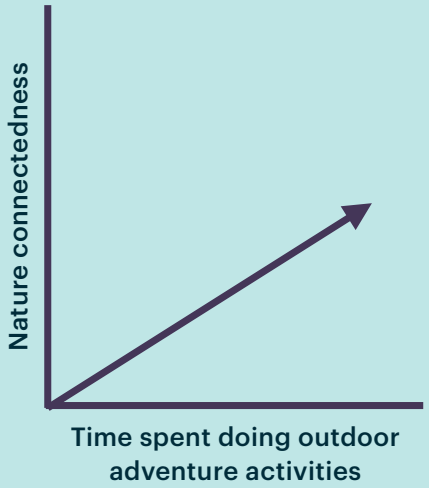
Why is it important for outdoor instructors to be environmentally literate?


KNOWLEDGE
ATTITUDES AND EMOTIONS
SKILLS
Outdoor Adventure
BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

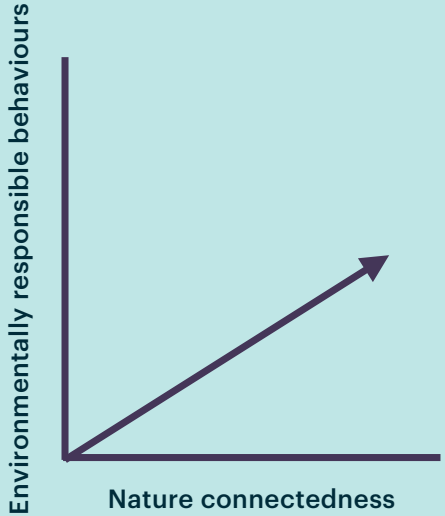
Graph A



Graph B



Graph C

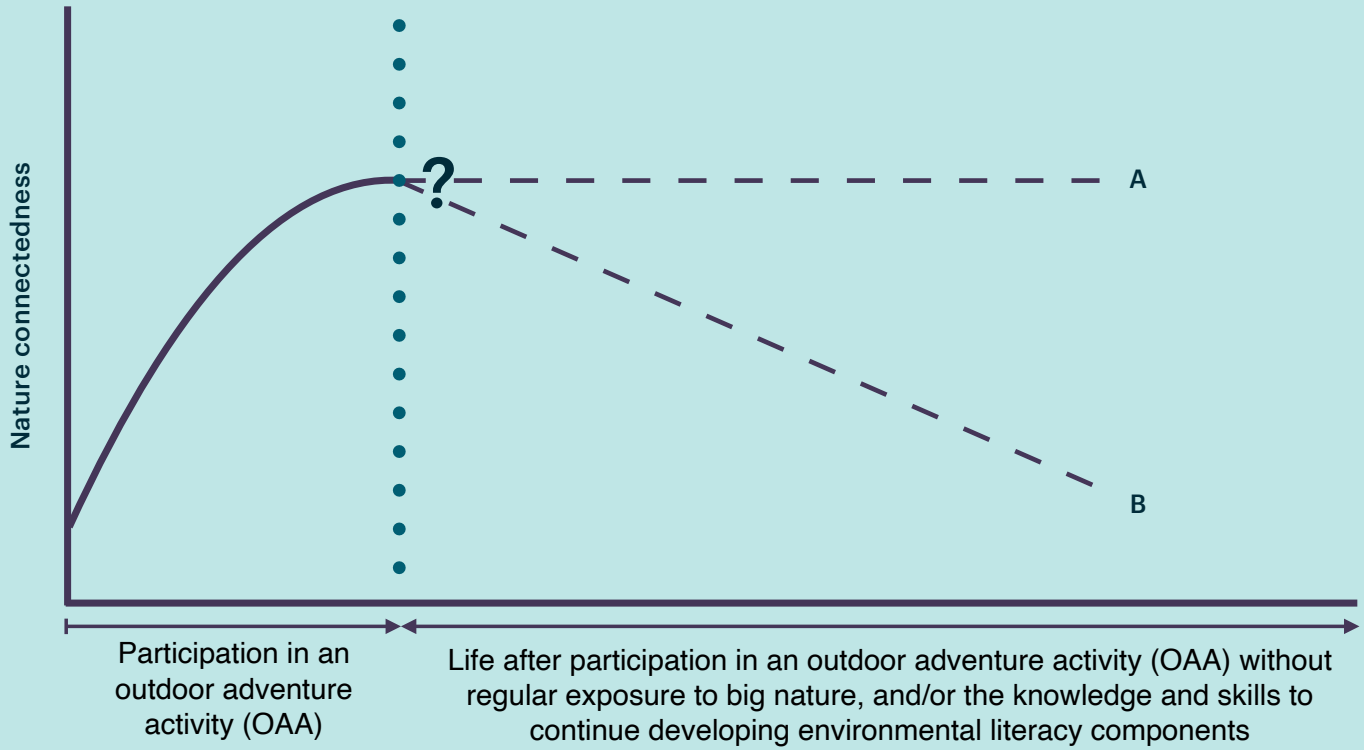


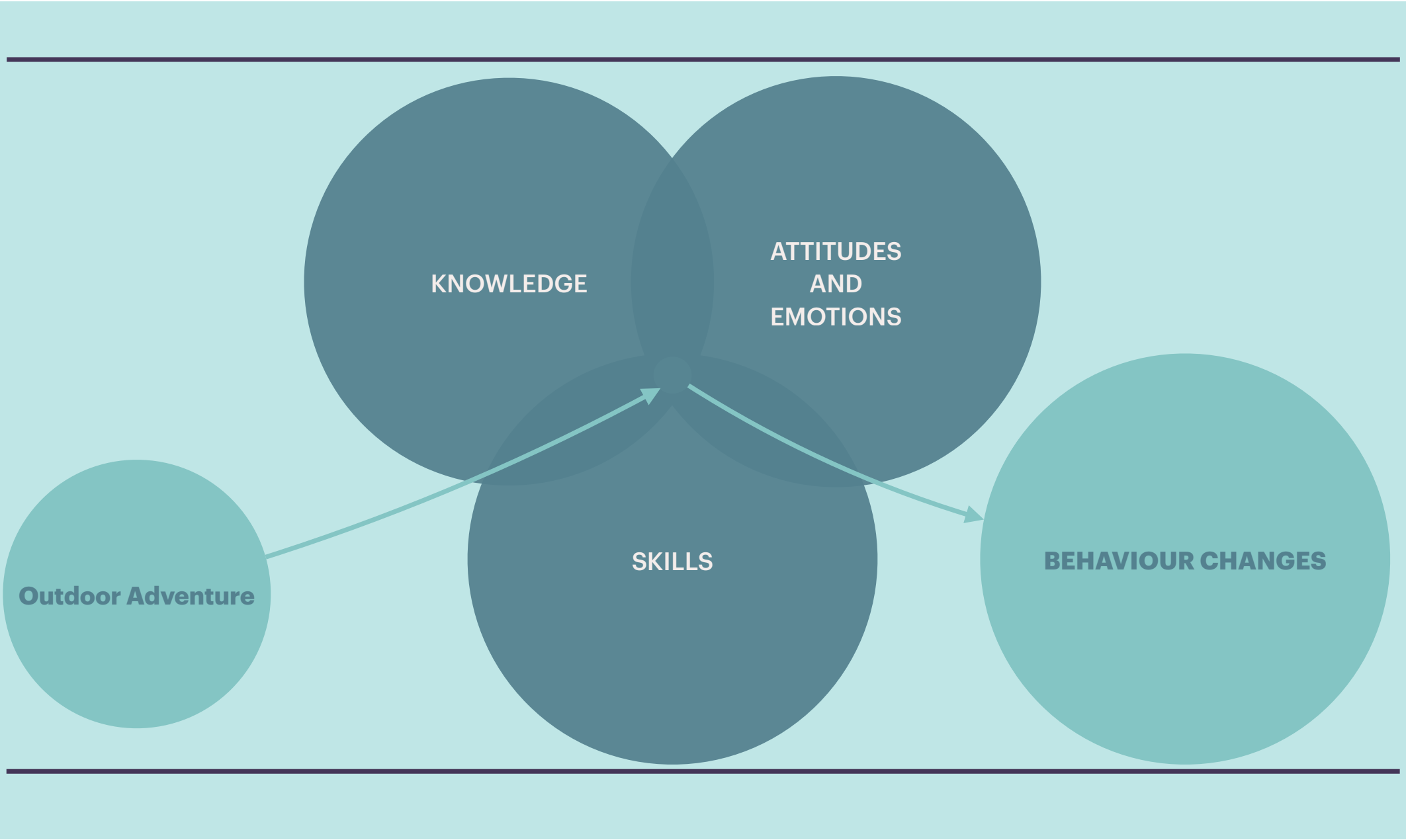
“[the possibilities of outdoor education/recreation contributing to the development of environmental awareness] reinforces the importance of the teacher's knowledge and skills to frame and facilitate this learning and to maximise opportunities for developing environmental learning and/or sustainability literacy.

It is not merely a matter of exposing people to outdoor experiences and hoping that they become infused with environmental awareness or sensitivity.”

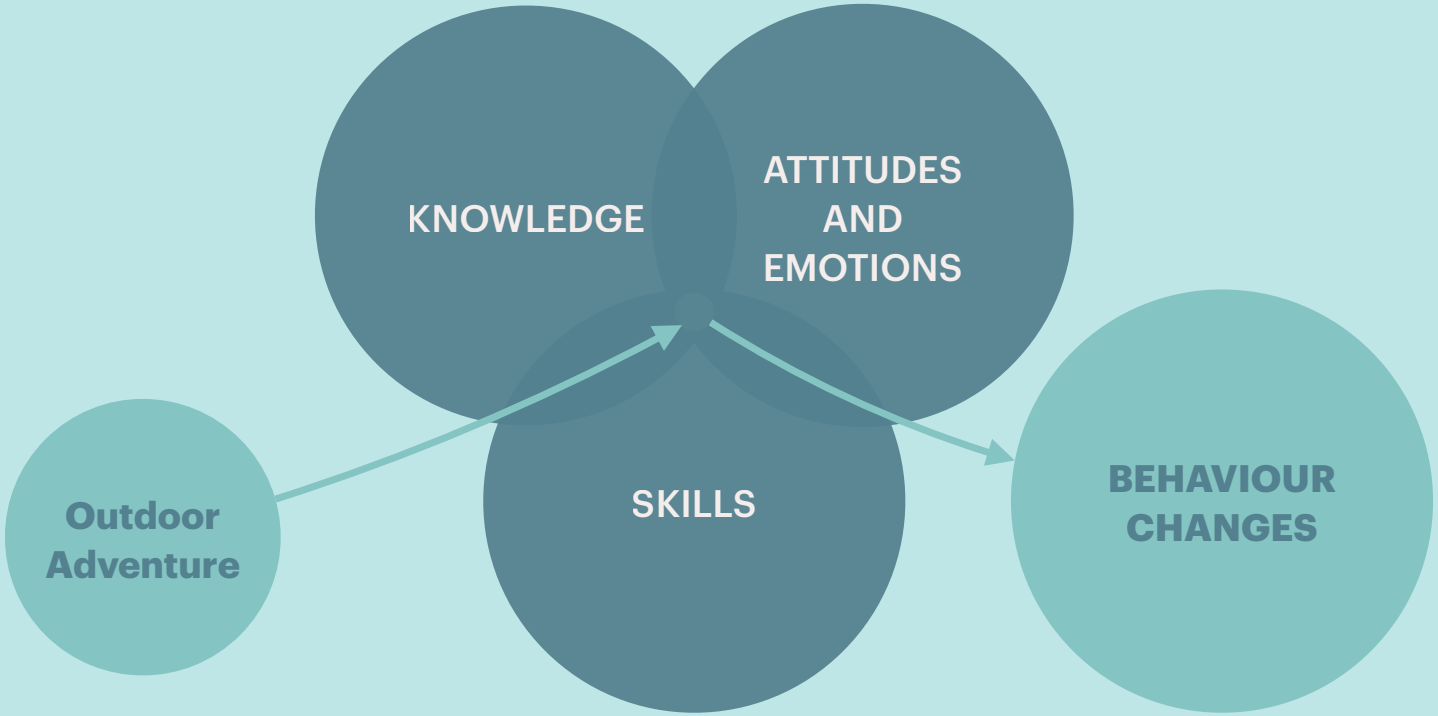
Alison Lugg (2007)

Lugg, A. (2007)


Nature connectedness
?
A
B
Participation in an outdoor adventure activity (OAA)
Life after participation in an outdoor adventure activity (OAA) without regular exposure to big nature, and/or the knowledge and skills to continue developing environmental literacy components


KNOWLEDGE
ATTITUDES AND EMOTIONS
SKILLS
Outdoor Adventure
BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Advancing Environmental Literacy Training for Instructors of Outdoor Adventure Activities

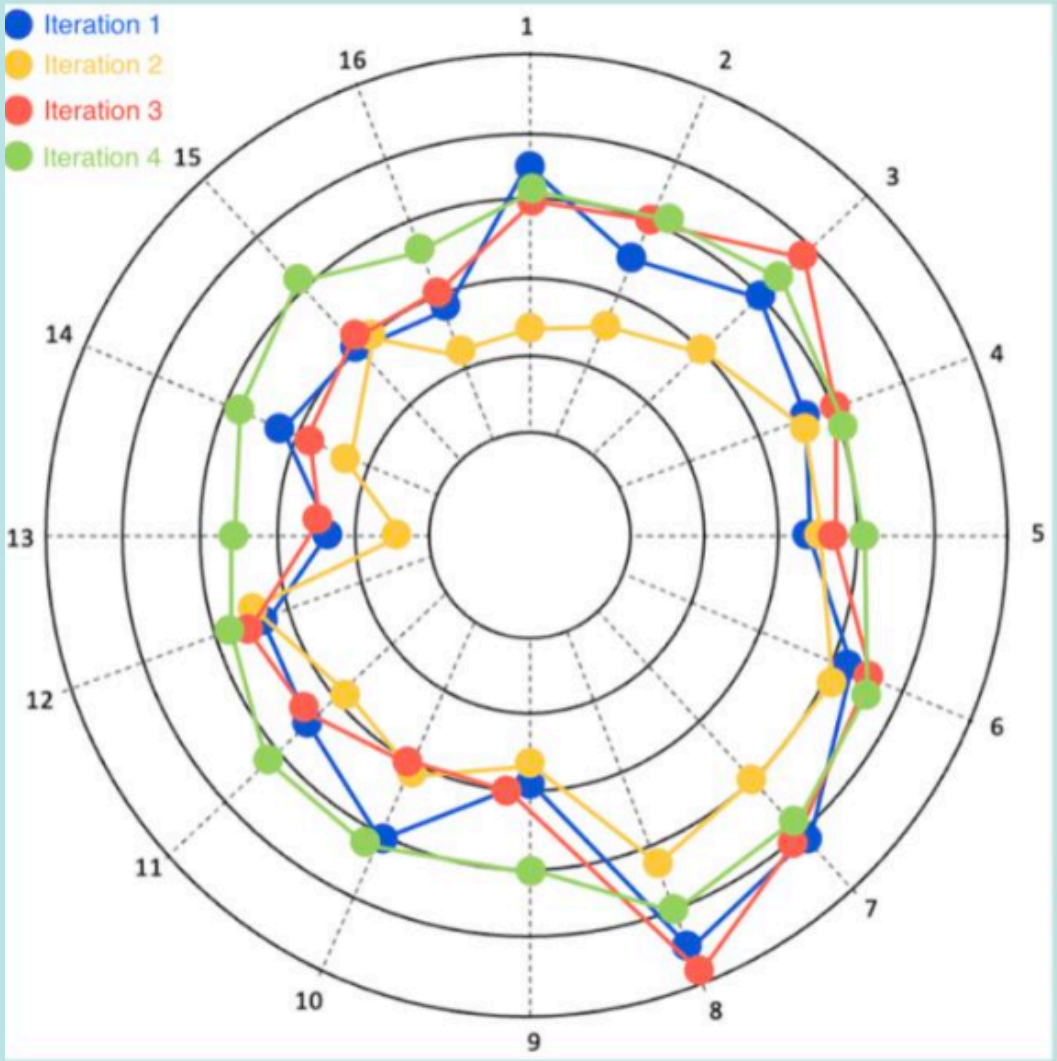


During the activities I run, I:

13. Engage clients in citizen science projects
14. Set environmentally related goals
15. Share good practice of environmentally responsible behaviours
16. Facilitate informal reviews related to environmental learning

I have the skills to:

9. Frame and facilitate environmental teaching appropriately
10. Recognise discomfort from environmental conversations
11. Make teachings relatable to different audiences (age, background, ethnicity, gender etc)
12. Use a range of communication styles



I know:

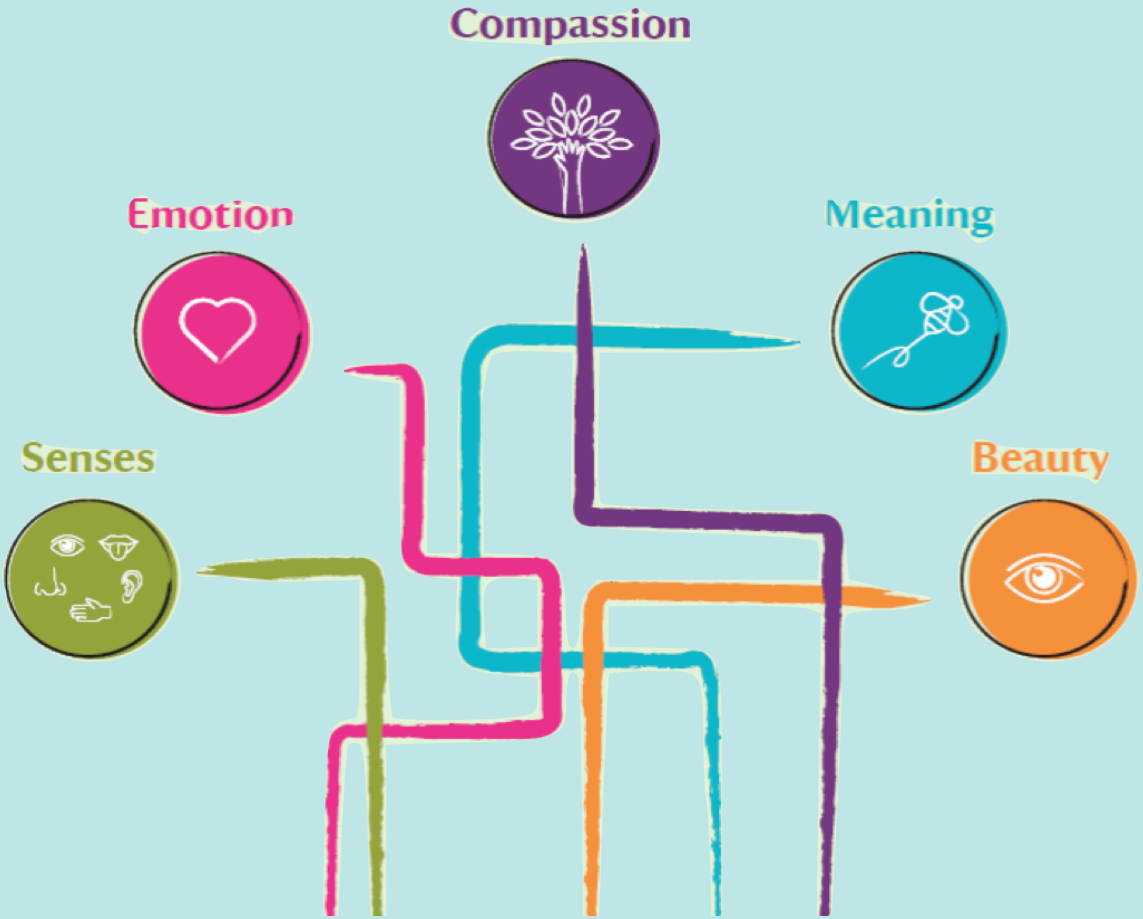
1. How climate change is effecting my local area
2. How my work might impact the ecosystem
3. How to reduce my environmental impact in my personal life
4. How to help others make changes to their lifestyle to benefit the environment

I feel:

5. Able to make a positive impact
6. Responsible for my impact
7. Motivated to take action
8. Concerned for the environment

KNOWLEDGE

ATTITUDES AND EMOTIONS

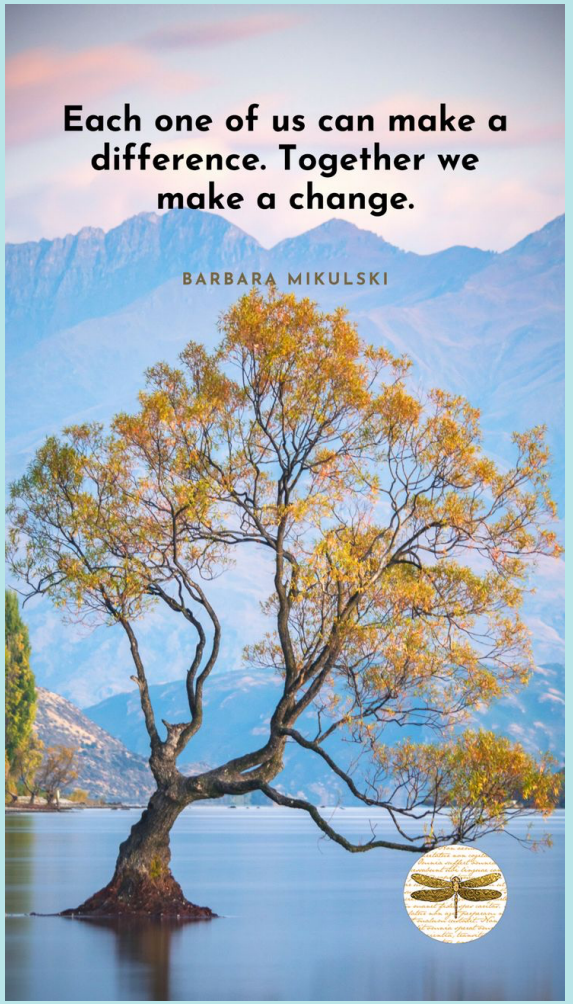


Lumber, Richardson and Sheffield (2018)

SKILLS

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES


Individuals can't make a difference
Community involvement
Write to MP's
Lunchbox waste challenge
Industries won't change until individuals do
Campaign
Citizen science projects
Car sharing
Too expensive
Buying second hand
Diet changes
Start with cheaper changes
Reduce waste
Cut back on flying
Transport changes
Correct recycling
Energy conscious
Ethical banking
I don't know how
Make it conversation! - Ask others
Help friends and family
Cut back on flying
Take small steps
Ethical banking
Volunteer
Community garden volunteering
Offsetting if possible - tree planting projects etc
Litter picking
Toileting in the outdoors
Making it a challenge - weighing your poo tube!
Not interested
Understand why
What makes them happy
Encourage a nature connection
How is that related to nature
If not for nature, for the people


Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make a change.
BARBARA MIKULSKI