

Coronavirus- Ideas for groups

SCIENCE and NATURE GROUPS

Current Science and Nature Groups - Ancient Wisdoms, Bird Watching, Computing, Environmental Issues, Geology, Maths, Meditation, Photography, Psychology, Popular Science Lectures, Science

Bird Watching

U3A members are being asked to help keep track of our garden birds. You are invited to join BirdTrack, a free online tool to record your own bird sightings and keep up to date with trends.

Provided by the British Trust for Ornithology, BirdTrack is for observers to manage their own personal records and contribute data to BTO science; supporting species conservation on local, regional, national and international scales.

This is a great opportunity – not only for members of existing U3A Birdwatching groups but for any nature enthusiast looking for a fun, outdoor project. Read more about the [BTO BirdTrack Project](#)

We would also love to hear about your sightings of different species or bird related garden activity and for you to share any photographs you have managed to take of your feathered visitors.

We will publish a selection of these sightings and photos on our website so please fill out our [online form](#) to record these also.

Mary Gibbons is the [Birdwatching subject adviser](#) for the U3A movement, Mary has a lot of information on her [Subject Adviser page](#) to help with this and can help with any individual enquiries.

Look out for a feature interview with Mary and learn more about the garden birdwatch project in this month's U3A Magazine – Third Age Matters – out next week. See more on the magazine on TAM's new twitter account [@MagU3a](#)

How to Guide Online Meditation group

Mindfulness is so important at times of stress and easy to share online- we are working with the Subject Adviser for Mindfulness to bring you a series of Mindfulness sessions - so watch this space.

GEOLOGY

Sharing Genealogy online

<https://u3ageology.weebly.com/>

MATHS

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/edocman/u3a-mathematics-and-statistics-newsletter-december-2019>

Philosophy

From the Subject Advisor, Shri Sharma, has created a U3A Philosophy Padlet Page

(Padlet is an online bulletin board) and you can access it

on <https://padlet.com/shrisharma108>

Online Resources

There is a good (but not very simple) series of explanations and questions about bits of logic. I would use this carefully – many people in our group found this a bit difficult. But it is great as a reference

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/logic/structure.html>

There is a large set of fallacies here; <http://utminers.utep.edu/omwilliamson/ENGL1311/fallacies.htm>

In particular there is an excellent series of YouTube videos from Crash Course. The one on philosophy is especially good. Although it seems to be targeting 12-14 year olds (my intellectual level!), the content of each video is excellent. I would suggest the first 3 videos, which deal with argumentation on a much simpler level, at least.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR

When you get to terms or phrases which are philosophical and that you're not quite clear about I can recommend the book called Philosopher's Toolkit by Bagini. You can google this too.

I would strongly encourage everyone to come to terms with the important aspect of understanding arguments, especially deductive inductive and analogical arguments. Also people should be aware of argument fallacies. (see above). Arguments are explained in the first 3 youtube videos of crash course.

The Open University's openlearn has a free course called doing philosophy. This really is excellent. It is here:

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/philosophy/introducing-philosophy/content-section-0>

There is a free argumentation course from the Carnegie Melton Open Learning Initiative

here: <https://oli.cmu.edu/jcourse/lms/students/syllabus.do?section=df3cb3f10a0001dc0fc0bc307edccf7ddccf7d>

There are two excellent, academic, sites the Stanford encyclopaedia

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

and the Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Notre dame philosophical reviews a load of reviews of books here: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/about/>

Philosophy the basics short summaries of various aspects of

philosophy <https://www.philosophybasics.com/>

There are many ways to do philosophy but it is important to have a group where discussion takes place – the actual ‘doing’ philosophy. There are some great suggestions in the Socrates café guide. Tips for running a philosophy group can be found here:

http://www.philosopher.org/uploads/3/4/7/5/34753531/tips_for_starting_and_facilitating_a_socrates_caf.pdf

Photography – from the Subject Adviser

There is a small web site especially for group leaders. This is arranged in basically two sections a) Camera Usage and b) Post Production or Digital Imaging. There is now such a wide range of material on the site that in general this is all a leader requires to start up a class. It should also be of interest to a wider audience. This can be found on <http://salisburyu3a.org.uk/U3ADI/index.html>

[Link on my web site for Photography](#)

[YouTube Video Playlist - Tutorial for U3A members](#)

https://www.flickr.com/groups/practical_photography/pool/

https://www.flickr.com/groups/di_plus/pool/

U3A members are invited to join in our U3A EYE photographic project, [click here](#) for more information