

WOODLAND LOGOLOGY

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The following sign is posted at the entrance to a nature preserve one mile north of Johnsonburg, New Jersey. Can you determine what is unusual about it?

VISITORS WELCOME
NATURAL AREA
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
FOR NATURE OBSERVATION AND STUDY

NO HUNTING
TRAPPING OR FISHING
NO DUMPING
THIS LAND IS PATROLLED

NO INJURING OR TAKING OF WILDLIFE OR PLANTS
NO LITTERING, FIRES, BOATS OR VEHICLES
(INCLUDING A.T.V.'S, MOTOR BIKES AND SNOWMOBILES)
YOUR COOPERATION IS REQUESTED

NO DRIVING OF GAME | Wildlife Preserves, Inc.
| P.O.Box 260, Pine Brook, N.J.

THIS SANCTUARY IS IN A LARGELY NATURAL STATE
AND MAY INCLUDE HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS
PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK
IDENTIFICATION MUST BE SHOWN UPON REQUEST

Did you observe that every letter of the alphabet is represented among the 431 letters of this sign? This is not very likely. According to the Kucera and Francis *Computational Analysis of Present-Day American English* corpus of one million words, the letters Z,Q,J,X occur with probabilities .00095, .00108, .00161 and .00199, respectively. (V, the next rarest, occurs with probability .00657.) A simple calculation reveals that the probability that at least one of each of these four letters will appear in a randomly-drawn set of 431 letters is only 0.018--less than one chance in fifty. So was this sign deliberately created by a logologist? Probably not. A clever reader should be able to design a much shorter but still natural-sounding pangrammatic sign of his own!