



Lesson:

Scavenger Hunt

Ages:

3rd-5th grade

Time:

30 minutes

Source:

Adapted from: Cornell, Joseph. **Sharing Nature with Children.**

Overview:

Students will participate in a scavenger hunt to engage their senses and draw attention to local plants.

Goals:

Students use their senses to explore the area around the schoolyard. As they become more familiar with their local area they will be ready to further study the things that live there, such as noxious weeds.

Objectives:

1. Students will become familiar with the area around the schoolyard.
2. Students will develop their observation skills using their five senses.
3. Students will be able to find and identify 10-15 local, natural objects.

Materials:

Per Student:

[Scavenger Hunt list](#)

Outline:

1. Hand out the [Scavenger Hunt list](#).
2. Have the students hunt for items on their list.
3. Discuss the significance of the items the students found.

Details:
Students are given a list of natural objects to find. Rather than collecting items, students will check them off on a list or draw a picture. Tell the students they may not find everything on the list, but it is more important to pay attention to the detail of the things they find. The students may work in pairs and when everyone has found as many objects as they can, the group meets to discuss what they found and how it fits into the ecology of the place. As time allows, visit items of particular interest with the whole group.

Wrap-up/Evaluation:
Have the students write a brief story about one or more of the objects they found. The story should include what the object is and what role it plays in the ecosystem.

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