

Scavenger Hunt

Materials: Scavenger hunt sheets, pencil, clipboard (optional)

Procedure: (Focus Attention) Children love a good scavenger hunt! This activity works best with children working together in teams of two or three. Pass out the scavenger hunt list and set a time limit for the hunt. Explain that not all the items will need to be collected but simply found and recorded. For example, the animal that lives under a log should be left in its place.

Students may not be able to find everything on the list, in the allotted time, so they should be strategic with what they look for. If you need to, set some boundaries for the hunt. This is especially important in wooded areas.

1) When everyone is ready say, GO and sit back and watch the fun.

2) Keep time, and announce the end of the allotted time mark. Have a sharing/reflection section when students regroup.

Hints, tips and tricks: This is a great warmup activity. The hunt should last no more than 10-15 minutes and can be used in a variety of ways.

For example, on the final day of our bushcraft camp, after breakfast, we do a huge scavenger hunt that has the campers run over the entire property and to sweeten the pot, the winning team gets a ride home in the truck with all their gear. It wears them out, challenges their knowledge and gives us a few moments of peace.

For younger groups: Is sometimes more helpful to make a large 'placemat' style scavenger hunt sheet with items they can collect. To do this, use a large piece of paper from a roll, and divide it into 5-10 sections. Write/include pictures of the items to hunt (i.e. Pinecone, spruce cone, lobed leaf, compound leaf, flower with 5 petals etc.)

For more advanced groups: Mystery Plant Scavenger Hunt: Use the list of clues for species for students to find (or make your own) and keep a tally of how many clues each team was able to match with items. *See below for clues and the tally sheet.

SCAVENGER HUNT

A flat needle

Something that is smaller than the tip of your pinky finger

Something that lives under a log and has many legs

Five different leaves

Something that is orange

A piece of an eggshell

Signs of animal activity (paths, teeth marks...) Something
that smells good

Ten different plants growing on a tree (not branches or leaves)

Something that holds water

Something sticky

A needle that grows in a bundle

One seed

Twenty rocks – starting small and getting bigger

Something that you would like the other groups to find

PLANT ID SCAVENGER HUNT GAME: CLUES

1. **Balsam Fir:** Flat needles, Sap is good for use as a natural glue and makes a good tea
2. **White Pine:** Needles are in bundles of **5**, and wood is soft for whittling
3. **White Spruce:** Needles are square feeling when you rub them between your fingers, and roots make excellent cordage
4. **Eastern White Cedar:** Flat, scaly needles, when burnt, smoke is great as an insect repellent
5. **Eastern Hemlock:** Flat Needles, a keystone species in the Wabanaki-Acadian Forest. Should not harvest for any reason
6. **Norway Maple:** simple, opposite, lobbed, smooth, white latex comes when the leaf is detached from the stem, non-native, good for building
7. **Trembling Aspen:** Simple, toothed, alternate, oval, softwood good for whittling
8. **European Mountain Ash:** Non-native, compound, opposite, toothed, good for building structures, and whittling
9. **Red Oak:** Simple, alternate, lobbed, smooth, strong, flexible wood that is excellent for bow making, with edible nuts
10. **Yellow Birch:** Simple, alternate, toothed, oval, the wood smells like peppermint, good for brushing teeth and making tea
11. **Linden:** Simple, alternate, oval, toothed, the bark makes excellent cordage and its wood is excellent for whittling
12. **White Ash:** Compound, opposite, smooth, young strait shoots are great for arrows and spears
13. **White Birch:** Simple, alternate, oval, toothed, the bark makes great tinder
14. **Beaked Hazelnut:** Simple, alternate, oval, toothed, the nuts it produces are high in protein, and covered in tiny, fiberglass-like spikes on the husk
15. **Hawthorn:** toothed, simple, alternate, oval, large thorns are strong, and can be used as sewing needles
16. **Common Elderberry:** Compound, opposite, toothed, edible fruit, has hollow pithy wood wood for making straws
17. **Red Osier Dogwood:** Simple, opposite, smooth, oval, good for making withies, often grows in ditches
18. **Wild Rose:** Alternate, toothed, compound, fruit is very high in vitamin C, and often grows in coastal areas
19. **Staghorn Sumac:** Compound, toothed, alternate, lemonade can be made from berries, limbs are soft
20. **Highbush Cranberry:** Simple, opposite, lobed, smooth, its fruit is edible

