



Fall Garden Scavenger Hunt Grades 3-5

Description:

Take your class on a garden discovery this fall through this fun scavenger hunt. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 learners. Have each group complete one section of the hunt, minimizing the number of items that you are collecting from the garden. Each section is designed to explore a different part of the garden, and the plants and animals that live there.

We recommend talking to your garden leader about the scavenger hunt so they can coordinate with other classes and events.

Preparation

Before going outside, describe the garden rules to the learners. Explain that the garden is another kind of classroom. Engage them in a discussion about what rules would be best to promote respect of the living plants and animals in the garden as well as each other. Consider using garden based activities as a reward for good classroom behavior. Garden based activities are popular with parents and volunteers. Ask them for help so that they can facilitate groups of learners. For more techniques about managing learners in an outdoor setting, refer to: <http://www.lifelab.org/wp-content/uploads/2003/04/OutdoorClassroomManagement2.pdf>

Make sure each group has a pencil and a copy of the scavenger hunt. Explain to each group what they will be looking for.

Purpose

Use the Garden Scavenger Hunt to introduce students to the plants and animals living in your garden and engage them in becoming more acute observers of their environment.

Discussion

Which plants are the most successful in the garden? Use the items in the hunt for questions about adaptation, plant botany and life cycles in the garden.

This activity emphasizes 21st Century Skills of collaboration and critical thinking.

Next Generation Science Standards: 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1



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Comparing Leaves

Find one of each kind of leaf

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Furry leaf | <input type="radio"/> Grey leaf | <input type="radio"/> Serrated leaf |
| <input type="radio"/> Oval leaf | <input type="radio"/> Lobed leaf | <input type="radio"/> Leaves arranged opposite along
the stem |

Comparing Seeds and Seed Pods

Find one of each kind of seed

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Dried bean or pea pod | <input type="radio"/> Fruit with seeds | <input type="radio"/> Sticker or burr |
| <input type="radio"/> Grass seed | <input type="radio"/> Multiple seed (like a berry) | <input type="radio"/> Seed from a tree |

Comparing Flowers

Find one of each kind of flower

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Orange flower | <input type="radio"/> Cruciform flower (4 petals) | <input type="radio"/> Pea shaped flower |
| <input type="radio"/> Composite flower | <input type="radio"/> Purple flower | <input type="radio"/> Flower that grows in a spiral |

Animal Traces

Find one of each. These are more difficult. Look closely!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Leaf that has a round hole in the middle | <input type="radio"/> Leaf that has a bite taken out |
| <input type="radio"/> Fruit that has a bite taken out | <input type="radio"/> Fruit that has a hole |
| <input type="radio"/> Leaf with brown marks | <input type="radio"/> Leaf with insect trace marks |