



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



Slow Food
DENVER

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Comparing Leaves

Find one of each kind of leaf

- Furry leaf
- Grey leaf
- Serrated leaf
- Oval leaf
- Lobed leaf
- Leaves arranged opposite along the stem

Comparing Seeds and Seed Pods

Find one of each kind of seed

- Dried bean or pea pod
- Fruit with seeds
- Sticker or burr
- Grass seed
- Multiple seed (like a berry)
- Seed from a tree

Comparing Flowers

Find one of each kind of flower

- Orange flower
- Cruciform flower (4 petals)
- Pea shaped flower
- Composite flower
- Purple flower
- Flower that grows in a spiral

Animal Traces

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

- Leaf that has a round hole in the middle
- Leaf that has a bite taken out
- Fruit that has a bite taken out
- Fruit that has a hole
- Leaf with brown marks
- Leaf with insect trace marks