



Plant-Themed Scavenger Hunt




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| <i>Objective</i> | This activity is designed to set the stage for learning about plant identification by encouraging participants to pay close attention to plant characteristics such as leaf edge, leaf color, and bark texture. |
| <i>Audience</i> | 1 or more participants; all ages |
| <i>Duration</i> | 15-20 minutes |
| <i>Materials</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clipboard or hard surface (like piece of cardboard) for each participant, or work collectively• Writing utensil for each person or work group (like a pen or pencil)• Scavenger Hunt print out (<i>next page</i>) for each participant• <i>Optional</i> - Magnifying glass for looking closely at plant features |
| <i>Background</i> | When participants first look at plants, they may think that they all look the same. By participating in an activity that has them looking closely at different species, participants will start to notice how various plants and trees truly are different |
| <i>Procedure</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have a quick discussion with the participant(s), asking them how they might tell the difference between various plants and trees in the forest. Ask them guiding questions during this discussion, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Are all leaves the same shape?</i>• <i>What are some different flower colors?</i>• <i>What do maple leaves look like?</i>2. Explain that they will be looking at differences between plant species by going on a scavenger hunt. If there is more than one participant, let them know that it is not a race and set ground rules such as spatial boundaries (example: only the yard), time limits, and emphasize the importance of staying close and working together.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>With younger participants, it is helpful to have a Caregiver supervise and assist with finding plants and facilitating participation of everyone.</i>• <i>With school-aged participant(s), Caregivers can provide instructions, and participant(s) can complete the scavenger hunt independently.</i>3. Hand out supplies.4. Help participant(s) as needed by pointing out interesting characteristics of different plants and keeping pace for them as they work through the activity.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If there is more than one participant, make sure that everyone has a turn looking for the different items on the list.</i>5. After the scavenger hunt/time limit is done, come together to discuss what the participant(s) learned. Ask participant(s) about the shapes and colors of leaves that they saw and where the biggest tree was. |

Inspiration Sources – School and camp activities of our youth; activities redesigned for our purposes.

Scavenger Hunt

Thorns



Biggest Tree




5 Different Shaped Leaves

Something Growing in Sun

Something Growing in Shade

4 Different Flowers



Smells Good

Smells Bad

A Seed



A Soft Leaf

A Smooth Leaf

A Rough Leaf

Chewed Leaf



Big Leaves

Little Leaves



Jagged Edge

Smooth Edge



5 Shades of Green

Smooth Bark

Rough Bark