



Teacher Toolkit

Activity: Get OUTSIDE Scavenger Hunt

Presented by: Cincinnati Parks

Grade Level(s) PreK- 4th grade

Activity Description

Take students outside and have a scavenger hunt with the natural world around them! For an extra challenge and mental exercise, use a bandana and have them do the activity by memory!



Ohio Standards Met

- Science, Kindergarten: Properties of everyday objects and materials
- Science, Kindergarten: Physical and behavioral traits of living things
- Science, Grade 2: Interactions within habitats
- Science, Grade 3: Earth's resources

Instructions

- Walk students outside. As nonchalantly as possible, pick up 3-5 natural objects along the way. (This can also be done beforehand, but make sure the objects are items that are around at the time of the walk.)
- At a good stopping point, tell students that you have a challenge for them. Have the students make a circle around you, and turn around. While they are turned around, place your found objects under the bandana.
- Let the students face you again, and tell them the challenge is a scavenger hunt by memory! They have a few seconds to memorize the items under your bandana, then go get them and come back. This works best with a time frame and boundaries. For example: Tell them they will have 10 seconds to look, then one minute to hunt and come back. Tell them they can go between the building and the big oak tree (i.e. set clear physical boundaries).

Thanks to Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) for collecting activities for the Teacher Toolkit



Instructions (continued)

- Pick up the bandana, let the students memorize for a few seconds, place the bandana back and let them go!
- Tips:
 - Give students a chance to come back and look again if they need to, within reason
 - Try not to comment on the objects until the hunt is over and you go over it as a team
 - Younger kids = fewer objects. 2-3 is good for PreK, 5 is fine for 4th grade
 - Have fun! This activity is highly adaptable. You can look for leaves, seeds, rocks, even litter is safe. Whatever the objects are, use them as a learning opportunity.

Materials Needed

- Bandana
- Found natural objects (if necessary, 'plant' some objects outside for the students to find)

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