

Lesson 7: Eco-Scavenger Hunt (Grades 1–4)

Objective

This lesson helps students identify living and non-living components of a natural ecosystem and appreciate the diversity of colors, sizes, and shapes in the natural world. Philosophically, this activity also encourages students and teachers to discuss what nature is and what humanity’s place in it is.

What do you need?

From the Eco-Scavenger Hunt List, place an item that can be described on the list inside your Eco-Treasure Box. Begin by asking the students to guess what your object is. You may give them clues.

For the game part of this activity to be successful it is important for the teacher to listen to the students without telling them what to pick up or say. You may encourage them, but allow each student to say how they feel about what they see. Why do they make their choices? Help them talk through the answers without being negative or positive.

Provide the list of items for each group of students. Ideally group size should be no more than three or four students each.

What do you do?

Plan a visit to a local area of forest or a park to play a game called “Eco-Scavenger Hunt.” Have student groups walk around a specific area for 15 minutes to find the items on the list below. As they find items, have them write down the objects that match the list. When they return, each group will share what they identified for each item.

Eco-Scavenger Hunt List

“I see . . .”

something that is beautiful
something that is prickly
something that is cold
something that is rough
something that is dry
something that is round
something that is hairy
something that is sharp
something that is hard
something that is slimy
something that is heavy
something that is smelly
something that is hot

something that is soft
something that is huge
something that is squishy
something that is noisy
something that is stretchy
something that is oval
something that is tiny
something that is pointy
something that is triangular
something that is pretty
something that is wet
something that is not part of nature

* Adapted from <http://www.ecokids.ca>