

Forest Scavenger Hunt



Objective: To develop knowledge and appreciation of your local forest areas, in a fun and informative way.

Abstract: By going on a scavenger hunt of a local forest area, you (individuals and groups) can gain knowledge of the natural ecosystems that surround you, particularly ones that often go unnoticed, such as forested parts of your city or schoolyard. You can also find hidden treasures in these forests, such as rare and diverse plant, insect, and animal species. With this knowledge, you can then act through compassion to protect these areas, and educate others about the importance of respecting forests, the connectedness of our local ecosystems, and the role that forests play for animals, other natural cycles, and the human population.

Number of participants: Appropriate for any size of group

Total planning time: 10-15 minutes

Total time for participants: 1-2 hours

Appropriate age of participants: 5+ years

Materials:

- Pens/ Pencils
- Scavenger hunt checklist
- Garbage bags (for collecting any litter which is found)
- Gloves (for collecting garbage)
- Books and other resources about plants, animals and other forest life

Action Plan:

- 1) With a blank scavenger hunt checklist, go outside to your chosen search area (schoolyard, park, city centre, etc.), survey the area, and fill in the list of forest items you wish the participants to find. A helpful list of common forest objects can be found on the sample scavenger hunt checklist provided.
- 2) Decide how you will divide your participants - you can have them work individually or in groups.

- 3) Go over the forest boundaries, the time limit and the rules, including the importance of not disturbing the natural area they are looking in.
- 4) Send your groups out to begin the scavenger hunt. With the use of guidebooks and other resources, see if your participants can identify the type/species of all the objects that are found as well. These can be tallied as bonus points!
- 5) Once participants have returned, go over their results as a group. If desired, give out rewards to the group that finds the most forest objects on your checklist. Most importantly, have an open discussion about any observations they made, such as how many different tree acorns and seeds they saw and identified, or where they observed different animal nests. Incorporate Planet Releaf into your discussion by having the participants discuss how the objects found in the forest are connected (e.g. insects and berries, a bird and a birds nest), as well as the role that humans play in protecting these resources.
- 6) Submit a report of what you learned during your scavenger hunt to Roots & Shoots through the online Project Database [<http://www.janegoodall.ca/members-project-registry.php>].

Resources to get you started:

Natural Resources Canada: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/factsheets/>

Tree Canada: http://www.treecanada.ca/site/?page=programs_trees&lang=en

Parks Canada: http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/banff/natcul/index_e.asp

Canadian Wildlife Service: http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/index_e.cfm

Wildlife Preservation Canada: <http://wptc.org/>

Canadian Museum of Nature: http://www.nature.ca/research/bscta_e/index.html

*The Jane Goodall Institute is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Contact:

For more information about this project, contact roots_shoots@janegoodall.ca

Download **A SAMPLE SCAVENGER HUNT CHECKLIST** here
[<http://janegoodall.ca/planet-reeleaf/documents/ForestScavengerHuntChecklist.pdf>]