



May Bonus Resource

An outdoor scavenger hunt is a versatile game where participants find specific items from a list or solve clues to progress. It encourages **grounding in nature**, **observation skills**, **physical activity** and **relaxation** and a **reset** from everyday classroom routines.

Which of these ideas might be best suited for your students?

- ✓ **Nature Collection Hunt:** Use an egg carton and collect 12 different items found on the hunt (e.g. feathers, leaves, rocks, sticks, pinecones, flowers, and other unique finds).
- ✓ **Color/Rainbow Hunt:** Look for items in nature that correspond to every color of the rainbow, or specific colors of your choice (e.g., something green, blue, yellow, purple).
- ✓ **Texture/Sensory Hunt:** Be on the lookout for items that are fuzzy, sharp, smooth, or rough and name or collect them individually or in teams.

- ✓ **Park I Spy:** Search for specific items on a walk, like a red car, a fire hydrant, a dog, a statue, a water source, a bench, a game court and other landmarks and features of your local park.
- ✓ **Nature Art Hunt:** Collect items like leaves, petals, and twigs, then use them to create a nature-inspired collage or picture on the ground or back in the classroom.
- ✓ **Riddle Hunt:** Phrase clues as questions to prompt inquisitiveness and curiosity as students look for answers along the way of the walk you have planned.
- ✓ **Photo Scavenger Hunt for Age-Appropriate Students:** Provide a list of items to look for and photograph, such as a spider web, a reflection, something flying, and something singing.
- ✓ **Minibeast/Critter Hunt:** Focus on finding living things like ants, butterflies, spiders, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, cicadas, salamanders, worms and other local forms of life.
- ✓ **Sunrise/Sunset Hunt:** Meet before the day begins or in early evening to be on the lookout for how nature changes as the sun rises or sets in your environs.
- ✓ **Number/Counting Hunt:** Use sidewalk chalk to number 1-10 on the ground and have students come to the list and add what they find while scouting the area (adjust the total as appropriate).
- ✓ **Alphabet Nature Hunt:** Take students out to identify a natural item for each letter of the alphabet; have them list on a sheet you provide to them to use individually or in pairs or teams.
- ✓ **Number Hunt:** Task students with finding specific quantities of natural items found on your outing, such as "find 3 different colored rocks" and "collect 5 different types of leaves".).
- ✓ **Wildlife Bingo:** Create a grid of 9, 16 or 25 squares listing a randomized assortment of animals, plants and minerals that can be found on their walk with you.

Tips for Success

1. **Define Boundaries:** Clearly set the search perimeter and time limit.
2. **Use Technology:** For older participants, let them use nature apps, websites and geocaching to identify forms of flora, fauna and natural formations as part of their excursion.
3. **Safety First:** Scout the area for safety and ensure you account for hazardous paths, plants and animals before taking them on the trail.
4. **Creative Credits:** Recognize students who are especially inquisitive, engaged, working cooperatively or contributing new learning to everyone's knowledge base.

Printable Outdoor Activity Sheets to Augment Your Planning:

[At the Park List for Nonreaders](#)

[Plant Identification for Younger Students](#)

[Nature Walk Checklists for Younger Students](#)

[Nature Walk & Scavenger Hunt Checklists for Elementary Students](#)

[50 Things to Find on a Nature Walk for Elementary/Middle School Students](#)

[Northern Virginia Bird Guide and Checklist for Older Students](#)

[Activities Across the Curriculum for Older Students](#)



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