Garden STEM at Home
Garden Scavenger Hunt

WE GROW MINDS, TOO.
OBJECTIVE:
Students will investigate an established garden to become more acute observers of their environment.

SOURCE
Slow Food USA

BACKGROUND
All gardens - whether native plants or vegetables - are closely tied to the landscape in which they are located. The plants that grow, their seasonal changes and whether they thrive all depend on a number of environmental factors and on the biotic and abiotic factors present.

INSTRUCTIONS
1. View or print the Garden Scavenger Hunts on the following pages, based on the age level of learners.
2. Establish any needed safety rules prior to venturing out into the selected garden.
3. Complete the hunt, adding as much detail as possible in a nature journal or on the blank areas of the page.
4. Using the items found during the scavenger hunt, lead discussions on seed dispersal, plant botany and life cycles.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Explore the Slow Food USA Clean Curriculum:

How Seeds Get Around from Michigan State University:
http://kbsgk12project.kbs.msu.edu/blog/2012/03/20/how-seeds-get-around-inquiry-learning-about-seed-dispersal/


Comparing Leaves
Find one of each kind of leaf:
- Furry leaf
- Grey leaf
- Oval leaf
- Pointy leaf
- Grass

Comparing Seeds and Seed Pods
Look for:
- Dried bean or pea pod
- Dried fruit with seeds
- Sticker or burr
- Grass seed
- Seed from a tree

Comparing Flowers
Look for:
- Orange flower
- Yellow Flower
- Flower from the pea (legume) family
- Many small flowers
- Purple flower

Animal Traces
Look for:
- Leaf that has a bite mark or hole
- Fruit that has a bite or hole
- Leaf with brown marks
Comparing Leaves
Find one of each kind of leaf:
- Furry leaf
- Grey leaf
- Serrated leaf
- Oval leaf
- Lobed leaf
- Leaves arranged opposite along the stem

Comparing Seeds and Seed Pods
Find one of each kind of seed:
- Dried bean or pea pod
- Fruit with seeds
- Sticker or burr
- Grass seed
- Multiple seed (like a berry)
- Seed from a tree

Comparing Flowers
Find one of each kind of flower:
- Orange flower
- Cruciform flower (4 petals)
- Flower from the pea (legume) family
- Composite flower
- Purple flower
- Flower that grows in a spiral

Animal Traces
Find one of each. These are more difficult. Look closely!
- Leaf that has a round hole in the middle
- Leaf that has a bite taken out
- Fruit that has a bite taken out
- Fruit that has a hole
- Leaf with brown marks
- Leaf with insect trace marks