



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
Garden Scavenger Hunt



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

GARDEN SCAVENGER HUNT



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:

<https://slowfoodusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Slow-Food-USA-Clean-Curriculum-Low-Res.pdf>

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/>

How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do by Linda Chalker-Scott; ISBN: 160469338X

Botany for Gardeners by Brian Capon; ISBN: 160469095X

Mature Garden Scavenger Hunt Checklist

GK-2

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
- _____

Mature Garden Scavenger Hunt Checklist

G3+up

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
- _____