

41. GARDEN SCAVENGER HUNT

Overview: Students will have an opportunity to look at the different plants, creatures and other objects to be found in the Garden and see how many they can identify.

Objective: Students will take the knowledge they have received in the classroom and use it to locate many of the plants and creatures found in the desert, especially at the Garden. They will also use mapping skills to mark the location where they found them.

Time needed: Approximately 45 minutes.

Group Size: Any size group could be broken down in groups of 4 or 5.

Age appropriateness: 3rd grade and up. Primary groups could do a smaller number of items.

Site: Entire Garden.

Background: The Garden has a wide variety of cacti, wild flora and fauna that can be observed. This is a good place for people to look at color, size, shape, smell, and sounds that are found in the desert. Students should have received a basic knowledge of desert flora and fauna in the classroom so they will know a little about what they are looking for.

Materials:

Provided at the Garden

Clipboards

Field guides

Magnifying lens

Bug boxes

Compasses

Provided by the classroom teacher

Scavenger Hunt Sheet

Garden maps

Preparation: Make copies of Scavenger Hunt Sheet and Garden maps.

Pre Activity: Students should have prior knowledge of how to use a field guide and a knowledge of common desert plants will facilitate this activity.

Procedure: Students will work individually or in small groups to locate the items on the Scavenger Hunt Sheet. They will put the item number on the map to show the location where they found the item. No item should be removed from its location.

Modifications: Number and intensity of items can be modified to match the abilities of the group.

Extensions: Students could compare their findings and discuss things like: size, shape, color, and texture. Math could be used to determine size and quantity. Mapping and compass skills could be taught and practiced.

Reference List:

Insects of the Southwest by Floyd Werner
What Kinda Cactus Izzat? by Reg Manning
Cactus Country by Jim & Sue Willoughby
Field Guides (at the Garden)

Time of Year: and time

****This activity was created by Barbara Ragels and Janet Hoy**

SCAVENGER HUNT GUIDE

1. MAKE A LEAF RUBBING OF 3 DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES.
 2. FIND SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT BELONG IN THE GARDEN.
 3. FIND AND NAME OR DESCRIBE A PLANT THAT HAS AN ODOR.
 4. NAME THREE SOUNDS THAT CAN BE HEARD IN THE GARDEN.
 5. COUNT HOW MANY BIRDS YOU CAN SEE IN 5 MINUTES.
 6. LOCATE AND NAME OR DESCRIBE A PLANT WITH A FLOWER.
 7. FIND A PLANT WITH GRAY LEAVES.
 8. FIND A PLANT THAT IS HAIRY.
 9. FIND A PLANT IN THE GARDEN THAT IS OVER 10 FEET HIGH. HOW CAN YOU PROVE IT?
 10. FIND THE SMALLEST CACTUS IN THE GARDEN.
 11. FIND A CACTUS WITHOUT THORNS OR SPINES.
 12. FIND THE LARGEST CACTUS IN THE GARDEN.
 13. FIND WHAT YOU CONSIDER THE MEANEST LOOKING CACTUS IN THE GARDEN.
 14. FIND AN UNUSUAL COLORED ROCK.
 15. FIND SOME IRON THAT WILL NEVER RUST.
 16. FIND AND DESCRIBE AN OBJECT WITH A SPHERICAL SHAPE.
 17. FIND AND DESCRIBE AN OBJECT WITH A PYRAMID SHAPE.
 18. FIND AND DESCRIBE AN OBJECT WITH A VERY ODD SHAPE.
 19. FIND AND DESCRIBE AN OBJECT THAT HAS A CUBE SHAPE.
 20. LOCATE AND DESCRIBE AN ANIMAL TRACK.
 21. FIND EVIDENCE OF FIVE ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN THE GARDEN.
 22. DISCOVER THREE INSECTS THAT LIVE IN THE GARDEN.
 23. FIND A NATURAL OBJECT THAT CAN BE USED AS A TOOL.
 24. DISCOVER AND DRAW A SYMMETRICAL OBJECT.
 25. DISCOVER AND DRAW AN ASYMMETRICAL OBJECT.
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