

39. NATURE MADE TOOLBOX

Overview: Students will examine simple household tools, visit different outdoor environments (e.g. Yuma Conservation Garden, Colorado River, Lake Martinez, Betty's Kitchen, Kofa Wildlife Refuge) to locate natural objects, and shape these materials to make specific tools.

Objective: The students will identify specific features of simple tools and locate natural objects that could be used or modified to make these tools.

Time needed: 1 hours

Group Size: 2-4

Age appropriateness: 3rd Grade and up

Site: any

Background: Many household tools used today were originally fashioned from natural objects early pioneers, settlers, and Native Americans could find. For example, gourds were made into bowls, spoons, etc. Bone was carved into sewing needles and digging tools. Plant fibers were used for stitching wounds.

Materials:

Provided at the Garden

Clipboards

Collection bags

Provided by the classroom teacher

Paper and pencil

Assorted household items

(sewing needle, hairbrush, comb, pin, pencil, etc.)

Preparation: Collect household items.

about how early settlers or Native Americans did many things they did today. Discuss how they did things before factories or stores around.

assortment of simple tools.

search for natural objects that could be used as a material for a tool. Attach a string to something or identify and record what and where the object is.

ideas and ideas, have them share their ideas with the large group.

the particular tool and the first group to find something like that. Repeat this procedure as often as you like.

Pre Activity: The class can have a discussion about the household tasks. What kind of materials are used in the corner.

Procedure:

1. In groups, have the students examine an assortment of household tools.
2. Have groups hike out through the area and search for natural objects that could be used as a material for a household tool. Collect the objects if it is not possible to bring them back. Record where the object is.
3. After students have collected their materials, have each group present their material to the class.

Modifications: A search could be done for one particular tool. The first group to find something like that could be the "winner." Repeat this procedure as often as you like.

Extensions: Research could be done to discover additional "natural tools."

Reference List:

Education Goes Outdoors, by Frank Johns, Kurt Liske, and Amy Evans. Addison-Wesley.

Keepers of the Earth

Investigating Artifacts, GEMS

Time of Year: any

**This activity was adapted from Education Goes Outdoors.