

Duplication

Students observe and identify nature items on the forest floor. This hands-on game adds fun to learning about tree life-cycles and the ecosystem.

DO – *experience the activity hands-on*

Instructions:

1. Along a section of trail, the hike leader quietly collects about 5 items from the forest floor without the participants noticing. Nuts, fallen leaves, lichen, shiny rocks, etc.
2. Have students gather around the leader. Cover a bandana over the 5 forest floor items. Then lift the bandana to reveal the 5 items for 30 seconds. Tell the students they have to try to remember each item.
3. Give the students 1 - 2 minutes to see if they can collect one of each item.
4. Gather the students around the leader and discuss each item found. After discussing an item, have the students drop it back on the forest floor.



REFLECT & APPLY – *share the experience and connect with real world examples*

- 1.) Look closely at one of your forest floor items. What does it remind you of?
- 2.) What is something you notice about one of the items that you have never noticed before?
- 3.) How did your nature item get to the forest floor? What actions or events may have happened just before it landed on the forest floor?
- 4.) What is something else you noticed while looking for your items?
- 5.) What do you think will happen to your nature item after you drop it back on the forest floor?
- 6.) Consider the season you are hiking (winter, spring summer, fall). How might the forest floor appear different 6-months from now?
- 7.) Before you were asked to collect these items, did you notice them on forest floor? (Probably not, as you did not have the “search image”)
- 8.) What is something for which you have a particularly good “search image”? It could be birds, black berries, sharks teeth, ice cream shops, mini golf courses, etc.