

HABITAT GO/FIND PRE-1ST

THEMES

Woods

GRADES

Preschool-K

TIME

30 minutes

Young children search for features in a wooded habitat.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Acquaint young children with the concept of habitat.
- Cultivate exploration skills.
- Help young children get comfortable being in the woods.

WHAT TO DO

- 1) Select a wooded habitat to visit. It could be a natural park with well-maintained trails, a wooded area adjacent to a creek, or a private woodlot. Check that it will be safe for your class and get any necessary permission to be there.
- 2) Make a copy of the worksheet for each adult who will be with the children.
- 3) Recruit and brief adults on the activity.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- Worksheet (with this lesson plan)
- Someone familiar with the area to co-lead your field trip

OPTIONS

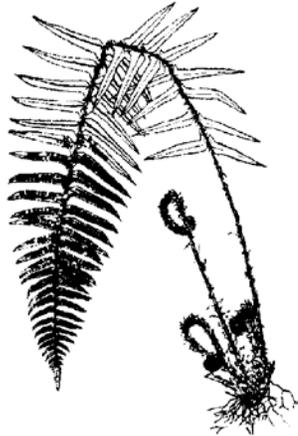
- Begin your field trip with a brief introduction to the activity and how to enjoy being in the woods while staying safe.
- Be prepared to go with the flow, guided by childrens' interest and ability to focus.

SPECIAL MENTION

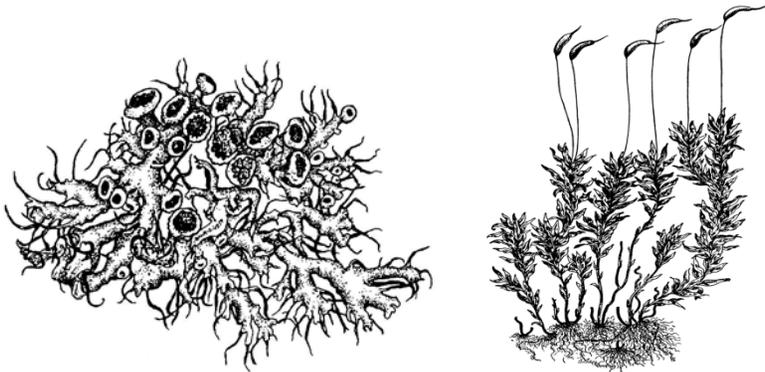
A strong wind will require postponing your visit to the woods. If your chosen habitat also has a creek, heavy rain may create unsafe conditions for children.

SWORD FERN IN THE HABITAT

Look for a low-to-the-ground plant with stiff, green fronds (branches) growing in a circle-shaped clump.



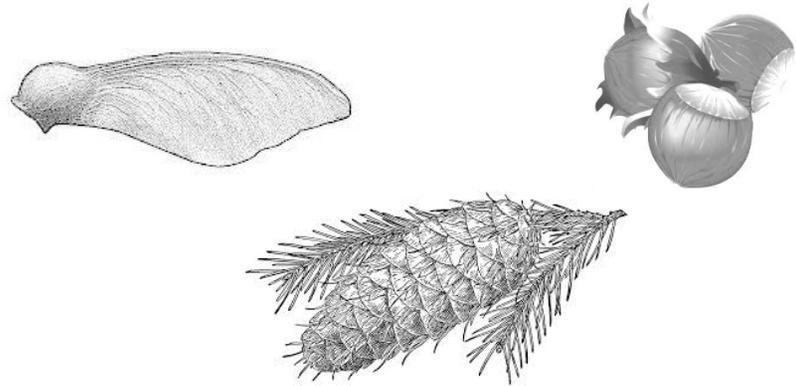
MOSS AND LICHEN IN THE HABITAT



Look for clumps of moss growing on trees or wood. Look for shaggy pieces of lichen on branches or on the ground.

SEEDS IN THE HABITAT

Find a plant that is making seeds or find seeds that have fallen to the ground. Here are examples:



DECOMPOSING WOOD IN THE HABITAT

Find a dead log, branch, or chunk of wood on the ground. Gently poke it with a stick.



SHELTER IN THE HABITAT

Look for a space under a fern, a cavity in a dead tree trunk, or other place you think a small animal might shelter.



CEDAR IN THE HABITAT

Look for a large tree with hairy, red-brown bark and flat sprays of leaves.



SKUNK CABBAGE IN THE HABITAT

Look in damp soil for a bright yellow flower in early spring or very large green leaves in late spring. Do not leave the trail!



SALMONBERRY IN THE HABITAT

Look for tall bushes on the side of the trail with bright pink blossoms and maybe the beginning of berries.

