

# **HABITAT GO/FIND SIMPLIFIED**

*Young children search for features in a wooded habitat.*

**GRADES**  
Preschool-1st

**TIME**  
30 minutes

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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

## **PREPARATION**

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 children 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.
4. Tell students where they will be going and, in general, what they might see.

## **WHAT TO DO**

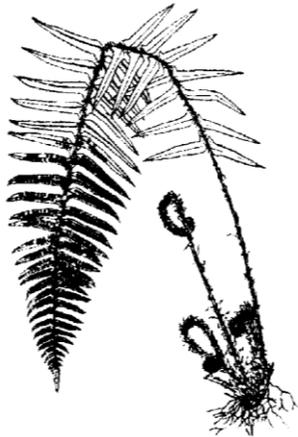
1. When you arrive at the ecosystem, emphasize to adults what the study area will be.
2. As a group or as a team, slowly walk through the habitat, encouraging children to call out things of interest. Prompt as needed.
3. Return to school and discuss what they found and what they would like to look for when they are in the woods again.

## **CAUTION**

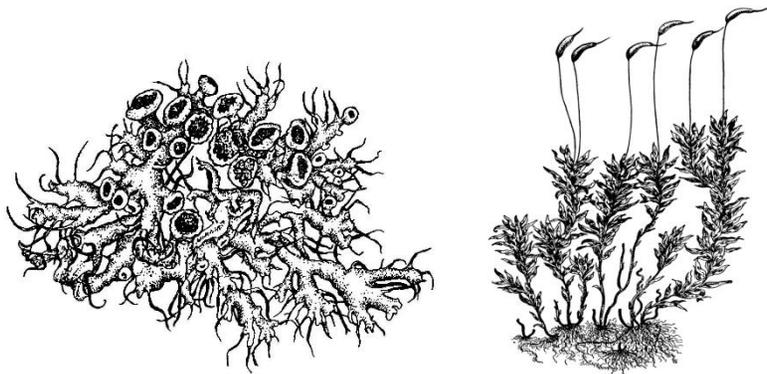
A strong wind will require postponing your visit to the woods. If your chosen habitat also has a creek, heavy rain may create unsafe conditions for children.

## **SWORD FERN IN THE HABITAT**

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



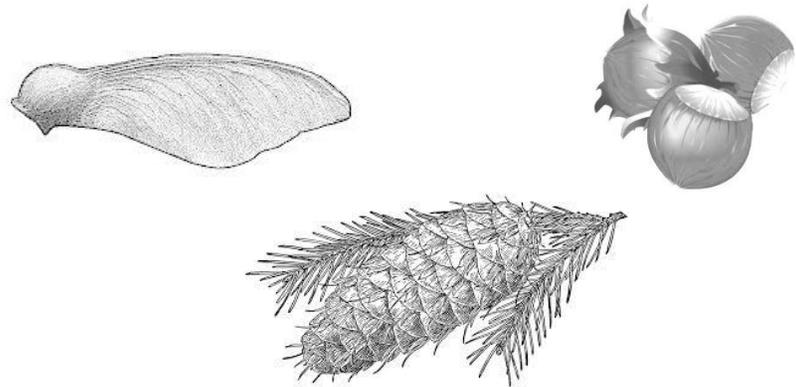
## **MOSS AND LICHEN IN THE HABITAT**



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.

