

# HABITAT GO-FIND

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**THEMES**  
Forest Habitat

*Working in teams, students search for habitat features and answer questions about what they find.*

**GRADES**  
2 - 5

**TIME**  
20 minutes

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Cultivate exploration skills.
- Test current knowledge about features in a forest habitat.
- Stimulate students to want to learn more about the life of a forest.
- Work as a team to complete a task.

## WHAT TO DO

- 1) Print the worksheet at [www.fauntleroy.net/creek/go-findworksheet](http://www.fauntleroy.net/creek/go-findworksheet). (If you print front and back on cover-weight paper, you will not need to provide clipboards.)
- 2) Divide students into teams of 3 or 4.

## OPTIONS

- Begin your field trip with a brief walk to acquaint students with where they are, then follow with this activity to complete the session.
- Use this activity to occupy students constructively as they wait to release salmon or have already released.
- Use this activity to stimulate students to think about what they would like to learn more about on a subsequent field trip or back in the classroom.

## SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- *Habitat Go/Find* worksheet (with this lesson plan)
- A trail map (with this lesson plan)
- "Tips and Tricks for Taking Kids Outside" (elsewhere on this website)
- A watershed volunteer to lead or co-lead your field trip

## SPECIAL MENTION

- Bring wipes or sanitizer for students to clean their hands after this activity.
- The park is a highly stimulating environment where even the most disciplined students can have difficulty staying on task. A few minutes of general look-around time first may help them focus.
- Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing your visit. Heavy rain, however, may create swift, high water that's not safe for small children to be near. In the event of a major rainstorm on your day, call your watershed volunteer early in the morning to strategize what to do. A strong wind will require postponing your visit to the park.
- Remind students not to venture beyond ear shot and assign adults to teams as needed.

# HABITAT GO / FIND IN FAUNTLEROY PARK

Working as a team, find the following habitat features and answer the questions about each, using what you already know about the natural world. Maybe you will learn more!



TEAM MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

## FUNGUS ON ROTTING WOOD

1. Is the fungus alive? Try these clues to help you decide:

### Likely Alive

- It's rubbery when I poke it with a stick.
- It's firmly attached to the rotting wood.
- I see new growth coming along.

### Likely Dead

- It's hard and dry looking.
- It crumbles when I poke it with a stick.
- I don't see any new growth.

2. If it appears to be alive, where might it be getting food and water? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you see the fungus doing for this forest habitat? \_\_\_\_\_

## A PLACE WHERE AN ANIMAL COULD TAKE SHELTER

1. What kind of animal might use this shelter? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why might an animal need this shelter?

- to hide
- to nest
- to sleep
- to stay dry
- other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you see evidence that an animal has been here? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what do you see?

- fur or feathers
- nesting material
- hulls or other food leavings
- droppings
- a rubbed-against look
- other \_\_\_\_\_

## FRUIT -- A BERRY OR NUT

1. Why do plants make fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where might the fruit you found have come from?

- tree
- bush
- fern
- moss
- Safeway
- other \_\_\_\_\_

3. What animals might eat this fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How might this fruit get moved to another part of the woods? \_\_\_\_\_

## AN ANIMAL LIVING UNDER ROTTING WOOD

Find a piece of rotting wood on the ground. Gently lift it to have a look, then replace it.

1. What kinds of animal do you see? Check all kinds.

worm  beetle  spider  insect  centipede  other \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you don't see an animal, do you see evidence that one has been here?

eggs or egg sacs  tunnels  droppings  web  other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where might these animals be getting food and water? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What appears to make this place a good choice for these animals? \_\_\_\_\_

## A PLANT OR ANIMAL THAT IS DECOMPOSING

1. What is decomposition? What happens when something decomposes?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you see that is helping decompose the plant or animal you've found?

worms and other critters  moisture  plant roots  bird pecking  human activity  
 mold  bacteria  other \_\_\_\_\_

3. What results of decomposition do you see?

sawdust  fresh dirt  soft, mushy wood  smell of decay  unconnected body parts  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

## A PLANT LIVING ON ANOTHER LIVING PLANT

1. What kind of plant is this epiphyte (*pronounced "ep-ah-figh"*)?

fern  vine  moss  fungus  bush  other \_\_\_\_\_

2. What kind of plant is it living on?

tree  bush  other \_\_\_\_\_

3. How might this epiphyte have gotten started here? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where might this epiphyte be getting food and water? \_\_\_\_\_

97th Avenue  
SW  
Entrance

SW  
Cambridge  
Street  
Entrance

Forest  
Court SW  
Entrance

Church  
YMCA  
Entrance

SW  
Barton  
Street  
Entrance

BIG BRIDGE

# EXPLORATION LIMITS IN FAUNTLEROY PARK

SUGGESTED  STOPPING POINTS

