



# Forest Scavenger Hunt!

## Introduction

In the book ***Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek*** the reader is introduced to twenty woodland animals. In this activity, children go on a forest scavenger hunt and learn more about life in a temperate forest. They use only their eyes for this activity and write down what they see.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ List of items to look for
- ◆ Binoculars
- ◆ Comfortable clothing and shoes for walking on a nature trail

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Organisms can cause changes
- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions
- ◆ The environment must supply the needs of the organisms

For standards correlation please see our website.

## Procedure

1. Read the book, noting that the back matter gives facts about the animals in the story living in a temperate forest. Explain what temperate, deciduous and coniferous mean.
2. Since this is an outdoor activity, adults need to come along for safety.
3. Divide your group into pairs, giving each a list of the following:  
*A deciduous leaf (maple, ash, elm, oak, etc.), A conifer (pine cone or pine needles), moss, vines, bird's nest, acorn or other nut, berries, fern, a large rock, a small stream, a bird (name it if you can) a squirrel or chipmunk, a butterfly, animal tracks, scat.*
4. Each pair gets the same list and walks through the woods checking off what they spot. This needs to be done quietly without disturbing any wildlife along the trail. Be sure each pair stays on the nature paths.
5. After 30 minutes, the group meets at an assigned spot and compares lists. The pair that spotted the most items wins the hunt!

## Nature Connections

- ◆ An indoor scavenger hunt:  
Using the list above, ask students to look for the same items in the book. Are they all there? What is missing? What items in the illustrations could be added to the list?



## Additional Resources

Learn more about woodland plants and animals in these books:

- ◆ *A Tree in the Ancient Forest* by Carol Reed-Jones
- ◆ *Autumn Leaves* by Ken Robbins
- ◆ *Berries, Nuts and Seeds* by Diane L. Burns
- ◆ *Big Tracks, Little Tracks: Following animal Prints* by Millicent Ellis Selsam
- ◆ *Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats* by Jim Arnosky
- ◆ *First Guide to Trees* by George A. Petrides
- ◆ *Hiding in the Woods: A Nature Trail Book* by Maurice Pledge
- ◆ *Tracks, Scats and Signs* by Leslie Dendy
- ◆ *Who Lives in a Tree?* By Susan Canizares and Daniel Moreton
- ◆ *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and Other Ughs* by Anthony D. Fredricks