

TREE SCAVENGER HUNT

TREE ID Grades: K-8

Overview: (communicated by teacher)

Let's get outside and explore some of the features that make the trees on your campus unique. Determining which trees you have on campus is the first step in learning about biodiversity. Let's explore our campus and find out what characteristics our trees have right here!

Method:

1. Take students on a nature walk around campus and view the different trees.
2. Review all tasks and questions on the scavenger hunt worksheet on page 3 with students. If they do not know a definition, provide a review.
3. This activity can take place in large or small groups. Encourage groups to observe carefully the various types of trees to see if they can get the maximum number of points.
4. Optional: create a contest. The group with the highest number of points wins!
5. Optional: use the pictures on page 4 for reference.

At a glance

Skills:

Critical Thinking
Teamwork
Discussion
Urban Forestry

Lesson Delivery:

(Best/Suggested method in bold)

- Whole group
- **Small group**
- **Independent work**

Location:

(Best/Suggested location in bold)

- **Outdoor**
- Indoors

Materials:

Necessary

- Paper
- Pen/pencil
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Table/writing surface
- Technology/Internet
- iNaturalist app

Optional

- Highlighter
- Device to take pictures

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Modifications & Extensions

K-2*

3-5*

6-8*

 **Modification:**
Use a Picture-Based Scavenger Hunt Sheet

Create a simplified version of the scavenger hunt with images next to each item (e.g., a picture of a tree with rough leaves, smooth bark, animal in tree). Include large checkboxes so students can mark off what they find independently or with minimal help.

 **Modification:**
Provide Vocabulary Support and Visuals

Include a glossary with definitions and images for key terms like “biodiversity,” “rough leaves,” “smooth bark,” and “canopy.” This helps students understand what to look for and promotes better engagement with the scavenger hunt questions.

 **Modification:**
Offer a Digital Scavenger Hunt Option

Allow students to complete the scavenger hunt using a tablet or mobile device, taking photos as evidence for each item. This can be paired with a digital reflection form to make the activity more interactive and accessible. They can then print out the photos and make them into a collage.

 **Extension:**
Draw Your Favorite Tree Discovery

After completing the scavenger hunt, students choose their favorite item they found and draw it. They can dictate or write a short sentence explaining what made it special or interesting.

 **Extension:**
Create a Biodiversity Bar Graph

After the scavenger hunt, students collect class data on which tree characteristics were found most and least often. Using this data, they create a bar graph and discuss which features seem most common or rare on campus.

 **Extension:**
Design a “Biodiversity Snapshot” Infographic

After the hunt, students synthesize their findings by creating an infographic that illustrates the biodiversity of trees on campus. They include observed traits, student reflections, seasonal considerations, and recommendations for preserving campus biodiversity.

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Method:

Check off items from the scavenger hunt below as you discover them!

X		Points	X		Points
	Tree with singular trunk	5		Tree with heart-shaped leaves	15
	Tree that is shading the school (5 points per tree)	5		Tree that produces nuts or fruit	20
	Tree that is near seating (5 points per tree)	5		Tree with lobed leaves	20
	Tree near a parking lot (5 points per tree)	5		Tree that will flower in the spring	30
	Tree with rough-feeling leaves	10		Tree that will have a large tree canopy	30
	Tree with shiny wax-coated leaves	10		Tree with multiple trunks	30
	Deciduous tree (loses leaves)	10		Tree that has "needles" instead of leaves	30
	Tree that produces berries	15		Evergreen tree (doesn't lose leaves)	30
	Tree with red leaves in the fall	15		4 tree species near playground	50

Total Points: _____

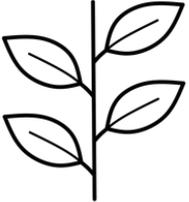
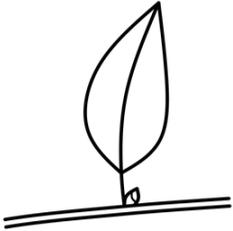
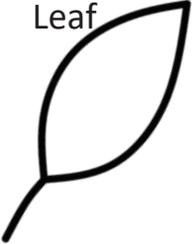
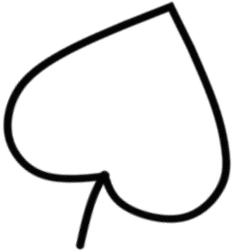
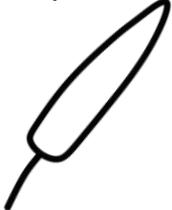
What was the easiest thing to find on this scavenger hunt?

What was the hardest thing to find?

Do you think that this scavenger hunt can be easier/harder depending on the time of year? Why?

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<p>Alternate Arrangement Leaf</p> 	<p>Simple Leaf</p> 	<p>Compound Leaf</p> 	<p>Ovate Shaped Leaf</p> 
<p>Whorled Arrangement Leaf</p> 	<p>Serrate Margin Leaf</p> 	<p>Lobed Margin Leaf</p> 	<p>Elliptic Shaped Leaf</p> 
<p>Cordate Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Lanceolate Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Oblong Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Evergreen Tree</p> 
<p>Broadleaf Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Needle Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Decurrent Tree</p> 	<p>Excurrent Tree</p> 



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ELAR and Science TEKS Alignment

Module	Lesson	Science TEKS Alignment
1: Tree ID	1.4 Tree Scavenger Hunt	<p>K.1A, K.2A, K.2C, K.9A, K.10A 1.1A, 1.2A, 1.2C, 1.9B, 1.10A 2.1A, 2.2A, 2.2C, 2.9A, 2.10B 3.1A, 3.2A, 3.9A, 3.10A 4.1A, 4.2A, 4.2C, 4.9A, 4.10A 5.1A, 5.2A, 5.2C, 5.9A, 5.10B 6.1A, 6.2C, 6.12B, 6.13A 7.1A, 7.2C, 7.10A, 7.11A 8.1A, 8.2C, 8.11C</p>
		ELAR TEKS Alignment
1: Tree ID	1.4 Tree Scavenger Hunt	<p>K.1A, K.2A, K.5A 1.1A, 1.2A 2.1A, 2.2A 3.1A, 3.3A 4.1A, 4.2A 5.1A, 5.2A 6.1A, 6.2A 7.1A, 7.2A 8.1A, 8.2A</p>