



KS2 Resources

# Nature Scavenger Hunt

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take a walk

Go Tell the Bees Learning Hive  
National Theatre Wales



# Nature Scavenger Hunt

A nature scavenger hunt that encourages learners to explore their surroundings while out for a walk and record natural objects and features found during the walk. The resource includes 4 creative follow-up activities, including nature journaling, creative story writing, stop motion filmmaking and sculpture-making.

This activity allows you to explore and connect with your surroundings. It can be done as part of a walk outside school grounds, a classroom / playground activity or as a home activity. The Scavenger Hunt Detective Sheet can be taken along for the walk and used to write, draw or even stick down an object. Objects can even be collected in a bag to be used in follow-up activities in the classroom.

**Note:** It is important to remember that only non-living objects such as fallen leaves and acorns, broken twigs, pebbles and empty seashells can be collected or stuck down on the sheet. Any larger features (such as landscapes, burrows or boulders) or living things (such as plants and animals) must be drawn or written down instead of removed from nature. Nature is a wonderful thing with lots of things to discover and admire - we must look after every bit of it!

## Option 1

Go for a walk (either on school grounds or further afield) and use the Scavenger Hunt sheet to find 8 features or objects in nature that fit in with each question.

## Option 2

If going for a walk is not an available option, found natural materials can be pre-collected and brought into the classroom for the learners to explore different materials indoors. Suitable objects and materials could include different leaves, twigs, rocks, pine cones, shells and acorns, for instance.

## Area of Learning and Experience

- Science and Technology
- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Expressive Arts
- Maths and Numeracy

## Resources Required

- Objects gathered from outdoors
- Printed detective sheet PDF
- Pens
- Paper
- Video recording device and stop motion app (optional)

# Follow-Up Activities

## Creative Activity 1: Nature Journal

The Scavenger Hunt sheet can be used to spark initial inspiration for creating a more detailed nature journal. The journal can be created using a small journal or sketchbook, or if this is not available, journals can be created by folding sheets of paper in half and tying a piece of string along the centre fold to create a small book.

The empty sheets can be filled with drawings, notes, diagrams, thoughts and objects to record findings from the walk. The journal can also be used as an ongoing project where pupils can reflect on nature during different times of the year or in different settings.

## Creative Activity 2: Short Story Writing

Invite the pupils to pick 3 of their favourite objects from the Scavenger Hunt Detective Sheet. This can be either from their own sheet, or if shared with the wider class, they can be picked from someone else's collections. Use these as inspiration to write a short story. The story can be inspired by physical objects brought back from the walk or by things that they have seen and recorded on the Scavenger Hunt sheet. The pupils can have the option to read their stories to the class and can even create props using the natural materials to support their stories.

## Creative Activity 3: Stop Motion Filmmaking

If you have collected objects such as pebbles, twigs, acorns and leaves, use these as inspiration to create a short stop motion film. You can add anything else that you have at home or in the classroom as well, such as small toys, plasticine and cardboard.

To create your short stop motion film, find a suitable area for filming, such as a large cardboard box or a flat surface. Two white boards work particularly well (one as a surface and one as a backdrop). Use an app to make

the process easier; some examples of free stop motion apps include Stop Motion Maker, LEGO Movie Maker, Stop Motion Studio and many more.

## Useful links to stop motion filmmaking in the classroom:

- <https://www.intofilm.org/stop-motion-animation-cpd>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGm8Lj3IKZg&ab\\_channel=IntoFilmClubs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGm8Lj3IKZg&ab_channel=IntoFilmClubs)

## Creative Activity 4: Environmental Art Piece

If collecting materials such as broken twigs, fallen leaves, acorns and pebbles, use these materials to create an environmental art piece.

- Divide the pupils into groups of 2-5 (if possible).
- Allow the pupils to present their materials to each other.
- Invite the pupils to use their materials collectively to create a temporary environmental art piece. This can be done either outdoors or indoors.
- It is up to you how you want to create your art piece. This could become a pattern by laying out your materials on the ground or on a flat surface, or take shape as a sculpture.

# Follow-Up Activities

## Tips

Study the materials that you have collected before starting your environmental art piece. If you have collected many small or soft materials like leaves and petals, for example, it may work better to lay these on the ground to create a pattern.

If you have collected a lot larger and sturdier materials like rocks and twigs, for example, these could work as a base for a 3D sculpture.



### Image credit:

Middle school project led by Cerianne Pitcock at Ysgol Nantwgyn.

Short stop-motion filmmaking project using natural materials.

## Ideas for themes for the artwork:

- Use your materials to create an artwork of an animal. This could either be a flat artwork laid on the ground or on a flat surface, or it could be done as a sculpture.
- Create a 'mandala' artwork using the gathered materials. A mandala is a 'cosmic diagram' which is made up of geometric shapes and symmetrical patterns. Study your materials closely to create a carefully planned and constructed mandala artwork which follows geometric and symmetrical patterns.

## Useful links for creating nature mandalas can be found below:

- <https://www.outdoor-classrooms.com/2017/10/create-mandala-using-natural-materials/>
- <https://childhoodbynature.com/mandalas-a-practically-perfect-form-of-nature-art/>

# Scavenger Hunt Detective Sheet

Use the boxes to write, draw or stick down an object that fits the description above.

Find something WET.

Find something with an INTERESTING PATTERN.

Find something that you think is OVER 100 YEARS OLD.

Find something that you think is LESS THAN 100 YEARS OLD.

Find something that you think has been  
EATEN BY AN ANIMAL.

Find something where you think  
an INSECT HAS LIVED.

Find something that feels SMOOTH.

Something that feels ROUGH.