

Nature Search Activity

This activity helps youth learn more about the nature around them and teaches respect for plants and wildlife. Best to do in the morning or evening on a clear day but can really be done anytime.



What Materials You'll Need

- Clear container(s)
- Camera
- Book on identifying wild life or internet access

Activity Time

1 hour

Instructions

1. Begin by talking to the youth about animals/insects/nature that they see often - in backyards, around the neighborhood, etc.
2. Talk about how to respectfully observe this nature. Putting everything back where we found it, being gentle, and leaving no trace are good things to mention.
3. Go outside and look for some wildlife! Plants are abundant and insects are most commonly found in these activities, so make sure to look in small sections to find things. If you want a closer look, put what you find in a clear container to observe, but return it back where you found it afterwards.
4. Figure out the species/types of animals and nature that you found. This can be done in the moment or by taking pictures and looking them up later. Oftentimes you can learn some fun facts about these species!
5. This activity can go on as long as you'd like. Just remember to put all of the animals and insects back where you found them - it can be tempting to take them home, but they all have very important jobs to do and have picked their locations for a reason! Remember to wash your hands when you get back inside.

Reflection Materials

Did you find anything that you had never seen before?

Why is it important to leave things in nature where we found them?

What kinds of animals would you expect to find in different climates?

Are you used to looking this close to the ground/at plants?

Did you expect to find as much wildlife as you did? Did you enjoy this activity?