



OHIO 4-H CLOVERBUDS
CLICK AND DO

Be A Nature Detective

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Background Learning about nature is a great way to teach your cloverbuds about exploration and observation. Ask your cloverbuds if they think they are good detectives. How many of your senses do detectives use to find the things? Do they use sight, smell, hearing and touch?* Explain that all around them are different colors, textures, patterns and signs of life in nature. Being a good detective means that we can explore new places and discover what we can find.

**If you would like to include the sense of taste, have a snack of fruit or nuts available after the activity. Explain that these items too are found in nature and we can enjoy them with our sense of taste. We must be careful not to eat any item we find unless we know it is safe to eat.*

Activity You will need: Activity sheet, pencil or crayons. This activity is intended to be done at a park or an area where there are different types of habitats (grasses, trees, wetlands, meadows, etc...).

Instructions:

1. Read over the activity sheet with the youth.
2. Explain to them that today they are nature detectives and their job is to find as many of the items on the activity sheet as they can.
3. Using the pencils or crayons, have the youth or an adult volunteer write down what they find beside each description on the activity sheet.
4. This can be done as a group or you may divide them into smaller groups if you have more than one adult volunteer per group.
5. Set a time limit of approximately 15 - 20 minutes.
6. Then gather the group back together.
7. Have them share with each other what they found.

Variations:

- If you have access to magnifying glasses you can give each group one to inspect items up close. You may find the colors blue and green on a beetle or feather when you look at it more closely.
- You can give each youth a piece of paper and a crayon to see how many patterns they can capture by laying the paper on the item and lightly coloring over it. For example, lay the piece of paper on different tree barks and color the paper to discover the different patterns and lines of each species.
- Don't forget to remind them to look up at the sky. Birds, clouds, the sun and rainbows contain many colors and shapes.

Follow Up Questions

1. What was your favorite thing you discovered during your adventure?
2. How can we be safe when we are exploring nature?
3. Should you go off into a woods or park or any place by yourself to do your detective work?
4. Why shouldn't we taste things when we are on a detective hunt?
5. What are some other places we could explore?

Application Being a detective of any kind teaches children to use their observation skills and to discover the world around them. The nature hunt allows youth to explore their surroundings to find the items on the list. Youth can begin to understand that sometimes we are most successful when we sit quietly so that we can hear and see what is occurring around us. The detective hunt also gives us an opportunity to discuss safety; don't eat items that you find, don't go exploring by yourself and always be aware of your surroundings.



Can You Find...



- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A bird that is singing. | <input type="checkbox"/> A worm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something green. | <input type="checkbox"/> A butterfly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something that is rough to touch. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something orange. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something that is smooth to touch. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something with lines on it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A hole or nest where a critter might live. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something with spots on it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An insect. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something white. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A flower. | <input type="checkbox"/> A frog or toad. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something that is oval in shape. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something hairy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something yellow. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something that hops. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something rectangular. | <input type="checkbox"/> A food source for the deer, raccoon, or any other animal. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something blue. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something we may use to decorate our home. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A feather. | <input type="checkbox"/> Something people need to use in our everyday lives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scat (droppings left behind from an animal such as deer, raccoon, bird...). | <input type="checkbox"/> Something not on this list! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tracks from an animal. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something brown. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A tree. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A nut or seed. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A vine. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A spider. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An ant. | |



All items should be naturally found in nature. Also, be sure to encourage the youth to leave the items where they find them. Explain, that others may enjoy looking for these items too!

