

Finding Nature

In this Earth-themed game for children of all ages, learners go on a sensory scavenger hunt and explore nature in new ways. To play, learners choose observation challenges from a container at random and try to find corresponding items in nature. Work together or compete against each other while Finding Nature!



Materials:

- Paper to write nature observation challenges on (see next page)
- Pencil/ pen
- Scissors
- A container to put challenges into (e.g. a fun hat, small bucket, or envelope)
- Phone camera or sketchbook (optional)

Steps:

1. Decide on the challenges you want to try. Cut your paper in strips and write one challenge on each strip. Fold the strips in half so you can't see the challenge, and place them in a container.
2. Choose a challenge at random from the container—no peeking!
3. Work together or compete against each other to complete the sensory-based challenges
4. Repeat until the container is empty or until you are done with your nature exploration

Sample Challenges:

Use the sample challenges below or make your own that work best for your area. Please note: nature can be enjoyed in many ways- if you aren't able to go outside, adapt the challenges to fit what you can see through your window.



- Find 5 objects with different textures (rough, smooth, fuzzy, etc.)
- Find 5 objects with different smells
- Find 5 different colored objects
- Find 3 soft items
- Find 3 hard items
- Find 4 items that have different shades of the same color
- Find 1 item you weren't expecting to find
- Find 1 item that you think is pretty
- Find 1 item that you think is strange
- Find 1 item that has at least 2 different colors on it
- Find 1 item that shows you that people are around
- Find 1 item that shows you that animals are around
- Find 1 animal of any type (don't touch it though!)
- Find 1 item that reminds you of something you have at home
- Find 2 items that are similar but still different

Caregiver Tips:

- If you have a camera phone handy, consider taking photos of the items you find when completing your challenges. When you get home, make a photo slideshow or photo diary to share with others!
- Bring a notebook on your nature trek and sketch your 3 favorite items. Why are those items your favorites?

Credit:

The *Finding Nature* activity was inspired by *Envirolopes*, developed by the Lawrence Hall of Science