



Schoolyard Plant Scavenger Hunt Lesson

Grades: 3-6

Time: ~30 minutes

Example Essential Question: *What types of plants live around my schoolyard?*

Required Materials:

- Ruler
- Scavenger hunt sheet
- Pencil
- Clipboard
- Plant field guides (optional)

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will look closely at their school plant community.
2. Students will practice measuring using a ruler.
3. Students will practice making written observations.

Introduction and background discussion (5 min):

- What kinds of plants do you think we'll find outside? How many types? Are they useful to use or animals? What questions do you hope to answer?

Plant Scavenger Hunt (15-20 min.):

- Give each student or pair of students a clipboard with a scavenger hunt sheet, pencil, and ruler.
- Set boundaries for the scavenger hunt and give a time or signal to listen for when students should return to a predetermined meeting spot.
- Students who finish early can use the plant guides to identify trees or leaves.

Wrap-up (10-20 min):

- Allow students time to share their findings.
- Why are plants important to our schoolyard?
- Did you find evidence of animals using these plants?
- What questions do you still have?