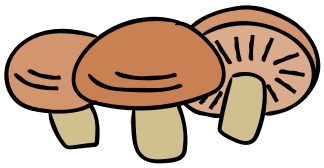
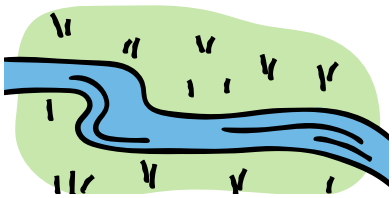
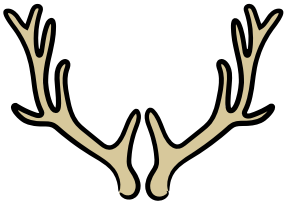
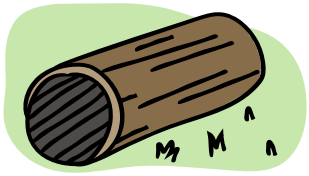
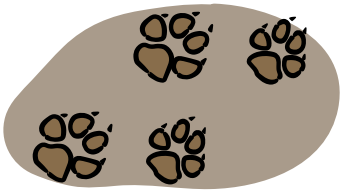
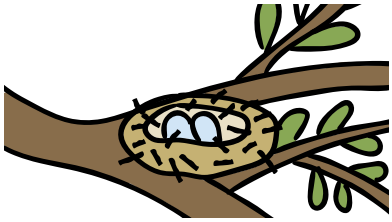
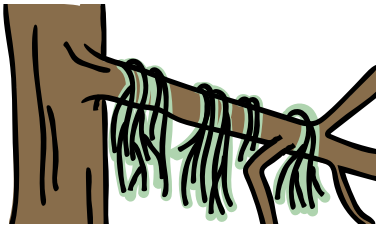
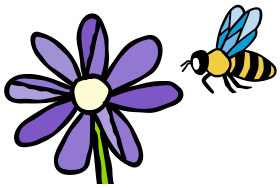
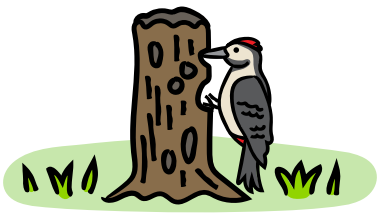
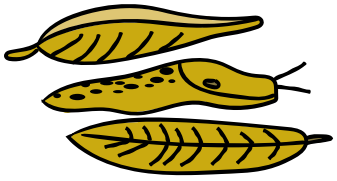
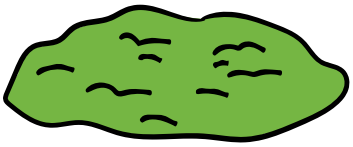
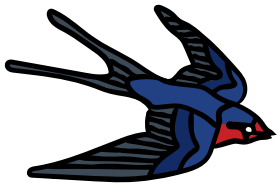
# Forest Life Scavenger Hunt

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fungus  | Bird Song  | Animal Drinking Fountain  |
| A Squirrel's Kitchen  | Traces of Animals  | Hiding Spot  |
| Animal Tracks  | Leaf on Canada's Flag  | A Nest  |
| Animal Scat  | Leaf Leftovers  | Plant that Grows on a Tree  |
| Food for Pollinators  | Wildlife Tree  | A Camouflaged Creature  |


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# Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Before I show off my colours, my name is Bud  | I can tell if you like butter  | I am soft and cushiony after it rains  |
| I am an insect who pollinates flowers  | My flowers are called catkins  | I flutter in the breeze  |
| Listen to me sing  | I'm known by some as the Tree of Life  | My berry is the colour of salmon eggs  |
| When I'm young I resemble the head of a stringed instrument  | I return in spring after a long journey  | I am a plant that has come from far away  |


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# Backyard Biodiversity Detectives: Seed Need

## Discover the diversity of seeds in your backyard

*(ages 2 years up)*

Life in ecological systems is all interconnected. One example of these interconnections is plant seed dispersal by animals. Some types of plants have seeds that stick to the fur of animals, are transported, then drop off or are rubbed off to grow in a new place. Another example of this is fruit/berries that are eaten by birds and that are dispersed wherever the bird flies and poops. In this activity your children will discover how seeds are carried by animals and what happens to the seeds afterwards.

Materials you will need include a one fuzzy sock (option to give it an animal face with fabric markers) and one empty cardboard egg carton or half of one for each child.



## Steps

1. Choose a place for your walk on a dry day that will allow seeds to be picked up on a big fuzzy sock. This might be a location where the grass is long and has gone to seed, or where there are a variety of plants that have finished blooming along a path. Put the sock on over their shoes then go for a walk at the chosen location. Stay on the trails in sensitive locations and walk with the fuzzy sock near the edges. Depending on the age of your kids you can have them pick a fur bearing animal that they want to pretend to be and then go for a walk in their "wild" place.

2. After your walk, carefully take the sock off their shoe and see what has collected on the socks. You may want to help them shake the seeds out onto a piece of paper or into the egg carton. Using a magnifying glass, your children can wonder about the different kinds of seeds they see, their shapes and sizes, and find words to describe them (use these descriptions to name each one). Can they tell what is a seed and what is not? Why are seeds important? Can they think of other ways seeds travel (e.g. think about the snowy seeds of cottonwood or the seeds of a dandelion)?

3. Option: Find out what kind of plants travelled with your "animals" by seeing if they can make their collected seeds sprout. Make small holes in the bottom of the egg carton compartments with a pin for drainage. Fill the compartments with soil, then plant and water the seeds. Care for your seeds by giving them a warm sunny place to sprout. (Note: some wild plant seeds may need to freeze before germinating so you may need to place seeds in the freezer for a few days before planting, depending on the time of year, like the fall). If you are going to transplant the small plants outdoors, make sure your children find out what kind of plant they grew. You should only plant native species and by doing so make the activity come full circle by giving back. For example, if your kids were "rabbits" when they collected the seeds on their "fur", they are giving back to the real rabbits by growing the seeds and then transplanting the small plants back to the place near where you found them for rabbit food. You may wish to plant



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some other native flower seeds from a package of seeds you have on hand at the same time, just to ensure you have some plants. You can always discuss why the seeds they collected may or may not have grown.

## Book suggestion:

Gibbons, Gail, From Seed to Plant, Holiday House, New York, 1991

## Action song:

To the tune of Farmer in the Dell. Use whatever animal fits for you:

*The rabbit hops around, the rabbit hops around,*
*Hi-ho the de-ri-o, the rabbit hops around*

*A seed takes a ride, a seed takes a ride*
*Hi-ho the de-ri-o, the seed takes a ride*

**Additional verses:**

*The seed falls in dirt, the seed falls in dirt…*

*The rain begins to fall, the rain begins to fall…*

*The sun begins to shine, the sun begins to shine…*

*The seed begins to grow, the seed begins to grow…*

Take this as far as you like - such as the rabbit coming back to nibble the plant or a seed from this plant sticking to another animal.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

# A wildlife-friendly garden

