

## Schoolyard Scavenger Hunt

### **Objective:**

Students will use previous knowledge from earlier Earth Club lessons to participate in a scavenger hunt in their schoolyard. They will gather clues that will lead them to different areas of the schoolyard that have been used throughout Earth Club.

### **Background Information:**

This scavenger hunt was written for the Gatzert Elementary School schoolyard in Seattle, Washington. However, the scavenger hunt can easily be adapted for different schoolyards. This hunt requires students to search for a coniferous tree, peas (planted in the garden), a compost bin, a slide, a water faucet, a garden bed, and a native plant habitat. The clues about these items can easily be changed, depending on the items found in the schoolyard. Also, it is helpful to give students clues to items that they have been studying or using over time, such as coniferous trees or garden beds.

### **Materials:**

1 clue for each item (see below)  
Tape  
Scissors  
“Clue” document

### **Preparation:**

1. Identify areas of the schoolyard that the students are familiar with for a scavenger hunt (examples: coniferous trees, compost bins, slides, etc.).
2. Create a clue for each area that you identified in step 1. A clue consists of a small poem. You may use the poems listed below.
3. Divide the class up into two or more groups (each group should have about 5 people).
4. Decide which clue to give each team first. For example, if you want the team to find the “compost bin” first, then you should give them the compost bin clue first.
5. Tape the next clue on the first item that the students will find (in this case the compost bin). This clue leads the students to coniferous trees, so tape the next clue on the coniferous tree.
6. Tape all of the clues face down around the schoolyard in a similar order.
7. Chose a different order for Team 2 so that they are not going to the same clues at the same time as Team 1. Label each clue with “Team 1” or “Team 2” so that each team grabs their own clue.
8. At the location where the last clue leads each team (for example, the habitat), make a sign that says “Congratulations Team 1—You have finished!”. Do the same for Team 2.

**Procedure:**

1. Divide the class up into two or more teams. Give each team a name.
2. Tell the students they are going to participate in a scavenger hunt today. The purpose of the scavenger hunt is for the students to review information presented in earlier Earth Club sessions by gathering clues around the schoolyard.
3. Pass out the first clue to each team (remember, each team should have a different first clue).
4. Have the teams read the clue amongst themselves. Remind the students that this clue will lead them to an area that they previously studied during Earth Club. They will find the next clue at the location of the first clue. Their job is to locate all of the clues. They will know they have finished when they reach a sign that says “Congratulations Team X—You have finished!”.

**Clues:**

Coniferous Tree

I find myself really quite tall,  
And I don't lose my needles in the fall.  
I am the first in a row,  
And am close to a street, did you know?

Peas

I like to climb up toward the sky  
But I need support so I can grow high.  
I will have a green shell some day  
When people buy me they sure do pay!

Compost Bin

Please do not throw meat or milk into me  
But vegetable scraps are OK, you see.  
I am home to some worms that are quite thin,  
And these slimy things breathe through their skin.

Slide

All day long, kids play on me in the sun,  
You see, I really am quite a lot of fun.  
They climb to the top of me and say hello,  
Then land on their feet on the ground below.

Water Faucet

All day long I give and give and give,  
So things like plants and animals may live.  
You may want to stop by me if you have a pet.  
You never know...you might get a little bit wet.

Garden Bed

Earth Club kids visit me once a week  
Looking for veggies, in me they seek.  
Sometimes kids plant in me a lot of seeds,  
But sometimes I am also full of weeds!

Habitat

One day I will be the home to lots of trees,  
So please do not walk on top of me.  
A pile of wood chips is what I look like,  
Through me birds and squirrels will hike.