



Nature Scavenger Hunt for Children Ages 3–8

Introduction for Parents

This nature scavenger hunt is designed to be adaptable for children aged 3–8, including those who cannot yet read. Here are some tips for making this activity successful:

- **For non-readers:** Use the picture version of the hunt where each item has a simple visual representation
- **For early readers:** Use the combination version with both pictures and words
- **For proficient readers:** The word-only version provides a bit more challenge

You can print this hunt or recreate it on a paper bag that children can use to collect their treasures. Remember to emphasize looking and not always taking items from nature!

Picture-Based Scavenger Hunt (For Ages 3–5 or Non-Readers)

Materials needed:

- Printed sheet with pictures
- Clipboard or sturdy backing (optional)
- Crayon or marker for checking off items

Use simple, clear pictures of:

- A green leaf
- A brown leaf
- A small stone
- A stick shaped like a letter
- A flower
- Something smooth
- Something rough
- A feather
- A seed or seed pod
- A bug or bug home
- A bird
- Something that makes a sound
- Something that smells nice



Combination Picture and Word Hunt (For Ages 5–6)

Add simple labels under each picture:

- GREEN LEAF
- BROWN LEAF
- STONE
- STICK
- FLOWER
- SMOOTH ITEM
- ROUGH ITEM
- FEATHER
- SEED
- BUG
- BIRD
- SOUND
- SMELL

Word-Based Hunt with Categories (For Ages 7–8)

For children who can read well, organize items by categories:

Colors in Nature:

- Something green
- Something brown
- Something red
- Something with more than one color

Textures:

- Something smooth
- Something rough
- Something soft
- Something hard

Plants:

- A leaf with an interesting shape
- A seed or seed pod
- A flower
- A stick shaped like a letter

Animals and Their Signs:

- A bug or insect
- A bird (or sign of a bird like a feather)
- An animal home or hiding place
- An animal track (real or imagined)



Using Your Senses:

- Something that makes a sound
- Something that smells nice
- Something interesting to look at
- Something safe to touch

Additional Tips for Parents

1. For children who cannot read:

- Go through the pictures before starting and talk about what each one represents
- Hunt together, pointing to pictures and helping them match what they see
- Use a simple check mark system or stickers to track finds

2. Make it more interactive:

- Bring a magnifying glass for closer inspection
- Take photos of items instead of collecting them
- Add a small notebook for drawing discoveries
- Create a “counting card” where they mark how many of each item they find

3. Extensions for learning:

- Ask open-ended questions about their finds: “Why do you think this leaf is shaped this way?”
- Compare items: “How is this smooth rock different from this rough one?”
- Create nature art with items collected (if appropriate to take them)
- Keep a nature journal where children can draw their favorite discoveries

4. For sensory-sensitive children:

- Preview the activity and set clear expectations
- Bring comfort items or gloves if touching certain textures is challenging
- Focus on visual hunting rather than touching if needed
- Include a “break” card they can use when needing a sensory pause

Remember that the process of exploring and discovering is more important than completing the entire list. Follow your child’s lead and interests, using the scavenger hunt as a starting point for curiosity about the natural world around San Antonio!