

Seed Hunt – Outdoor Lesson

Grade First

Lesson Spring Outdoor

Time 50 -55 minutes

Materials *From the Portable:*

- Seed hunt cards
- Baggies for seed collection
- Walkie Talkies (tune to channel #6)
- Sit upons (optional)

Beads for Watershed Necklaces (give to teacher at end)

Rain Boots

Objective:

To teach students to locate and identify seeds in the watershed and how these seeds are dispersed.

Before the lesson:

1. A couple days before the outing, send reminder email to the volunteers and let them know to arrive at the Watershed Portable at least 15 minutes before the scheduled departure.
2. Obtain the parent/student list from the Teacher. This is the list of what students will be going with each volunteer parent.

Day of the Lesson Prep:

1. Arrive at the Watershed Portable about an hour before the outing to review the lesson and gather the materials.
2. When you check in at the office, ask Kathy Conrad to turn on her walkie-talkie and let her know of your outing time.
3. Visit the classroom to see who needs boots and either bring the students to the portable to get them or find out their sizes and bring them to the classroom.
4. When the volunteers arrive, introduce yourself and give them the list of students they will be responsible for (if that has been provided by teacher in advance).
5. Review the lesson with the parents. Give each parent a copy of the “Seed Hunt” card and an empty baggy. Explain that the Seed Hunt will take place as a group, but they can use the card to help give students guidance and the seeds that are found can be collected in the baggy.

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6. Remind volunteers that students need to stay with their assigned groups at all times. Volunteers need to stay with students until they are back in the classroom with their teacher.

The Lesson:

1. Gather everyone together and introduce yourself to the students and ask them:
 - a) *Who remembers what we are going to do on our outing today?*
 - b) *Who can tell me some of the ways that seeds get dispersed in the watershed? By wind, attaching to animals or plants, or humans planting seeds.*
 - c) *Does anyone remember what a seed needs to grow? Water and sun.*
 - d) *What is this process called (germination). When cells inside start to divide and multiply.*
 - e) Remember to stay with your assigned parent leader for the whole tour.
2. Start walking as a group to the watershed sites. Stop along these areas:
3. At the Evergreen trees by the chain link fence before the crosswalk, have the students look on the ground where there may be pine cones. *What is located in a pine cone?* Yes, seeds and they are dispersed once the cone breaks down and the seeds fall out of the inside.
4. Group cross at the crosswalk stopping the entire group and reminding them to “stop, look and listen.” Have a parent or two go out and guard crosswalk. Remind student and parents that students are on the inside of the white line and parents are on the white line.
5. Stop by rainwater and drainage pond (R/D Pond). Ask students and parents to start looking for seeds. In that area you might find old blackberry seeds (along left side of path), grass seed tassels, and if you walk around the r/d pond and look in the middle, there are usually cattails showing older seeds.
6. Proceed along trail toward stream and continue to look for seeds along the way. Often you will find seed pods that have fallen from the Cottonwood trees. Also, you may find some old Maple tree “helicopters”. Challenge the students and parents to look for other seeds.
7. Continue along trail to where it crosses the stream. Have two parents enter stream and have one parent on each side of stream. Have parents help students one at a time cross the stream and continue up the trail to the wide open field. Be sure to have a parent go up first so there is an adult to monitor the students in the field.
8. Ask students what seeds they might find in the field. There will be lots of grass tassels here. Then as a group walk across the field and along the back section path where there will be lots of salmon berry bushes with green and salmon colored berries. Where are the seeds on the berries? Follow

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trail toward the tennis courts, and to the main road that travels back to the school. Follow the road back to the crosswalk and again cross as a group and continue walking back to the watershed portable where the walk began.

Finishing up:

1. Collect Seed Hunt Cards, boots, misc. and return to watershed portable. Students may take the baggies filled with seed samples back to their classroom.
2. Have students return boots and follow teacher's directions on returning to classroom.
3. If time permits, have parents put the new watershed bead on student's necklaces; otherwise, give beads to teacher to have put on necklaces as their schedule allows.
4. Return materials back to their place in the watershed portable. Wipe down any wet and muddy backpacks or other materials before putting them away.
5. Thank parent volunteers! You can also send them an email later.
6. When you check out at the office, let Kathy Conrad know that the outing is complete and she can turn off her walkie-talkie.
7. Remember to fill out the Lesson Feedback form on the website.