

Alphabet Walk

Although this activity is designed for younger children, it can be adapted as a challenging exercise for middle and high school students

The objectives are:

- to become aware of nature
- to identify items in nature by name

Background:	Most of the time we walk around oblivious to our surroundings. By concentrating on finding things that match a letter of the alphabet, we become more aware of what is around us.
Skills:	The children should know the alphabet.
Age:	Grades 1 – 3
Materials:	Paper and pencil
Activity:	<p>Explain to the children that they are to find at least one item in nature for every letter of the alphabet. They can choose to start with A and go to Z or write the letters on a sheet of paper and fill in the blanks as they identify their findings. The only rule is: it has to be the true name. A cat is a cat. Kitty and other nicknames do not count.</p> <p>Set a time limit of 30 minutes or what ever their attention span will tolerate.</p>
Discussion:	<p>Once they have completed their walk and recorded their findings, ask them which letters did they have the most problems with. Which could they find the most items in nature?</p> <p>How many things were they able to find that they did not realize were there? We find the kids looking between branches for nests, checking around tree stumps for insects, and under boulders. Find out who was surprised at what they found or where they found it.</p>
Adaptations:	<p>For junior high students, have them identify the correct name of the items. A flower must be identified as tulip, rose, etc. The same thing for insects, birds, etc.</p> <p>For high school students, arm them with a field guide to learn the scientific name of their findings.</p>
Brownie Try It!	Outdoor Adventure (Hike)

