



Down and Dirty Scavenger Hunt

Instructions: Go for a hike and keep your eyes on the ground. How many of the items below can you find? As you find each item, check the box next to it and read on the back about how it helps wildlife!

3 different shapes of leaves that have fallen from the trees

a brown leaf

fungus (mushrooms)

a red flower

a yellow or white flower

an acorn or nut that has fallen from a tree

an insect

long grass

a hole in the ground

a rough object



What was your favorite item? Draw a picture, or take a photo of it and share it with us on Instagram #ButlerSWCD



Down and Dirty

3 different leaves

Leaves are food for many different animals. Did you spot any evidence of a hungry insect on the leaves you found? Look for small holes and missing chunks.

Brown Leaf

These rotting leaves provide food and shelter for some animals such as roly polies. Do you think your leaf died recently, or is it still there from last fall?

Fungus

Fungi, together with bacteria, are decomposers. They are responsible for most of nature's recycling which returns dead material to the soil. Without fungi's rotting activities we would be lost under thick piles of dead plants and animals.

Red flowers

Hummingbirds have excellent eyesight and are attracted to red flowers specifically, as they're full of nutritious nectar.

White or yellow flowers

Bees and other pollinators are often attracted to white or yellow flowers. What foods do you eat that are white and yellow?

Acorns or nuts

Important source of food for animals like squirrels and deer, especially in the winter.

Insects

Insects are the most diverse family of animals on Earth. Each insect has a role to play in the environment, such as food to other animals, or as decomposers breaking down dead plants and animals. Can you make a food chain for the insect you found?

Long grass

Long grass is beneficial to wildlife because it helps smaller animals hide from predators.

Holes in the ground

These are great shelter for many types of animals from tiny ants to huge rabbits. Some pollinators, including 70% of bee species, nest underground. Bees play an important role in pollinating our crops and other plants!

Rough objects

Some objects in nature are rough, like tree bark. As a result, some snakes and lizards can climb trees and other rough surfaces.