

Leaf Scavenger Hunt

Fall is here, and it's a great time of year for exploring the outdoors. Over the next few weeks, the leaves will be changing colors and falling off the trees. This provides a great opportunity to engage your children in activities that foster their love of nature and build their math skills. For this month's challenge, we're going on a leaf scavenger hunt.

Before beginning the scavenger hunt, create a list of the items to find. There can be two components to this scavenger hunt:

- Look for leaves with a specific number of points on it (typically 1-5 points)
- Look for leaves with specific colors (red, brown, orange, yellow, green)

Go on a nature walk near your home and collect as many leaves as you can find. They should be different types of leaves which match the items on the scavenger hunt list. Place these leaves in a bag.

When you return home, take a piece of chalk and create a grid on the ground with the different types of items on the scavenger hunt list. Place the number of points for each leaf across the top of the grid, and the color of the leaf down the left-hand side of the grid. Sort the leaves based on the categories – count the points on each leaf, and place the leaf in the chalked area containing that number of points and the color of that leaf. You may want to place a rock on each leaf pile to prevent them from blowing away.

Once you're done, count the number of leaves in each pile to find out which category has the biggest pile.



ZoFo Connect

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Practice your counting and sorting skills! This month we're going on a leaf scavenger hunt.

Did You Know?

Leaves contain certain kinds of chemicals, and these chemicals make them turn specific colors. All leaves have chlorophyll, and this chemical gives them their green color. When the chlorophyll is gone as the weather gets colder, the remaining chemicals determine what color the leaf will turn. Anthocyanins cause leaves to turn red and purple, whereas carotenoids cause leaves to turn yellow, orange and brown.

Disclaimer: Supervision and safety of children participating in these activities is not the responsibility of Zoology Foundation. All children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We'd love to see you completing this activity. If you would like, please send us a picture of you playing this game so that we can share it on social media. Please email pictures to info@zoologyfoundation.org.



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