



BIG GREEN LESSONS

Learning Garden Scavenger Hunt: High School

Description

Students participate in a Learning Garden scavenger hunt to collect a variety of specimens, sort living from nonliving, and then classify these organisms in creative ways. This activity is designed to introduce students to the shared features of living organisms, systematics, and biodiversity.

Lesson Outcomes

Students will:

- distinguish between living and nonliving specimens by considering features that define life.
- classify and organize specimens based upon observable traits.
- understand the importance of classifying objects in their everyday lives.
- complete one of the extension activities (see below).

Materials & Preparation

- Collection jars, paper bags, bucket
- Review lesson and familiarize yourself with your Learning Garden

Teacher Background

Students will be encouraged to be hands on with the Learning Garden through a unique and adaptable scavenger hunt focused on classifying objects they find. The scavenger hunt will provide an opportunity for students to become more familiar with the Learning Garden, which will support future learning activities.

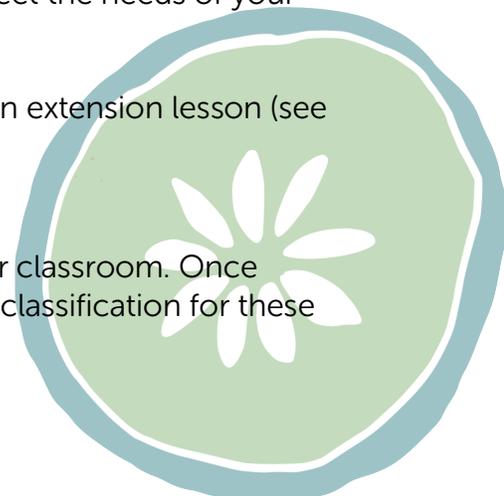
We classify things into groups and categories to help us stay organized, keep track of things, and be able to compare different things. For example, similar foods are grouped together on supermarket shelves to make it easier for customers to find them. Different brands of peanut butter sit on the same shelf so you can compare one to another and decide which you prefer.

NOTE: The list of features on the handout can be modified to meet the needs of your classroom.

At the end of the Garden Lesson you may choose to complete an extension lesson (see ideas below).

Introduction (10 minutes)

As a group, ask students the students to identify six things in your classroom. Once those items have been identified ask students to create a simple classification for these



items. This could be by color, size, and so on. Review with the students the importance of observations and why classifying objects is important to our everyday lives.

Let students know that today they will be going to the Learning Garden to complete a classification scavenger hunt.

Remind students to avoid collecting higher level organisms. As the teacher, be aware of poisonous plants and other hazards on your site and review those concerns with your student. Warn students against collecting venomous arthropods or touching sharp objects.

Review any additional rules to the Learning Garden. Query students about known bee/wasp sting allergies before going into the field.

Garden Lesson (30 minutes)

Students can complete the Learning Garden Scavenger Hunt in either small groups or individually; decide what works best for your class and your Learning Garden.

Let students know that today they will be completing a scavenger hunt to collect various living and non-living specimens. Review with the students that they will be implementing an effective way to make observations, through classifying the various objects they find.

Pass out the Student Handout and ask students to spend 15 minutes collecting both living and non-living specimens.

Once students are finished, either return to the classroom or stay in the Learning Garden with your students.

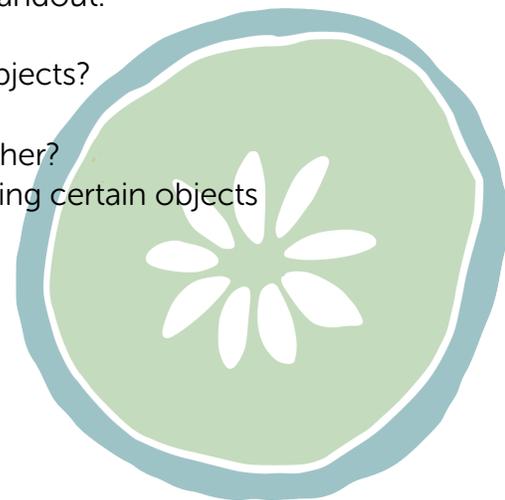
Ask the students to complete the activity by:

- separating collected items into living and non-living,
- looking for similarities and difference among the living items,
- using 10 of the living items to create at least three additional classifications.

Conclusion (10 minutes)

After the students have finished classifying their objects, ask students to prepare to discuss the discussion questions at the bottom of their student handout.

- How did you distinguish between living and non-living objects?
- What were your living classifications?
- What did you learn about the objects you classified together?
- What additional questions do you now have after classifying certain objects together?



Extension Lesson Ideas:

- Science
 - Create a dichotomous key
 - Dive deeper into scientific classification
- Culinary arts
 - Create a classification for edible items
 - Classify Learning Garden plants by recipe type
- English Language Arts
 - Use the objects in a writing activity
 - Use the objects as vocabulary builders
- Math
 - Use geometric shapes, their measures, and their properties to classify objects
 - Calculate how many classifications are possible for the entire class
- Art
 - Use the objects in a still life drawing
 - Use one object or one classification as inspiration for a project



Student Handout

Student Procedures

In groups or individually, collect 15 specimens from the designated area, 10 of which must be living, formerly living, or a part of a living thing. Put all specimens in containers available.

Caution: Do not touch potentially biting or stinging organisms; alert your teacher to known allergies; be aware of sharp objects.

Your collection should have at least 10 of the following:

1. Something that is red
2. Lives on another organism
3. Has been or is used for food
4. Can be carried by the wind
5. Something that is green
6. A decomposer
7. Something that is pointed
8. Something with 6 or more legs
9. Something with a distinct odor
10. Something found in pairs
11. Something found underground
12. Something moist to touch
13. Something hairy
14. Something rough to touch
15. Something that is toothed
16. Something that is man made
17. A seed
18. Something that can be recycled
19. A fruit
20. Something segmented
21. Other: (specify)

Classroom Activity

- Separate your collected items into living and non-living
- Look for similarities and difference amongst your living items
- With 10 of the living items, create at least three additional classifications

Discussion Questions

- How did you distinguish between living and non-living objects?
- What were your living classifications?
- What did you learn about the objects you classified together?
- What additional questions do you now have after classifying certain objects together?