

HABITAT GO-FIND

THEMES
Forest Habitat

Working in teams, students search for habitat features and answer questions about what they find.

GRADES
2 - 5

TIME
20 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Cultivate exploration skills.
- Test current knowledge about features in a forest habitat.
- Stimulate students to want to learn more about the life of a forest.
- Work as a team to complete a task.

WHAT TO DO

- 1) Print the worksheet at www.fauntleroy.net/creek/go-findworksheet. (If you print front and back on cover-weight paper, you will not need to provide clipboards.)
- 2) Divide students into teams of 3 or 4.

OPTIONS

- Begin your field trip with a brief walk to acquaint students with where they are, then follow with this activity to complete the session.
- Use this activity to occupy students constructively as they wait to release salmon or have already released.
- Use this activity to stimulate students to think about what they would like to learn more about on a subsequent field trip or back in the classroom.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- *Habitat Go/Find* worksheet (with this lesson plan)
- A trail map (with this lesson plan)
- "Tips and Tricks for Taking Kids Outside" (elsewhere on this website)
- A watershed volunteer to lead or co-lead your field trip

SPECIAL MENTION

- Bring wipes or sanitizer for students to clean their hands after this activity.
- The park is a highly stimulating environment where even the most disciplined students can have difficulty staying on task. A few minutes of general look-around time first may help them focus.
- Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing your visit. Heavy rain, however, may create swift, high water that's not safe for small children to be near. In the event of a major rainstorm on your day, call your watershed volunteer early in the morning to strategize what to do. A strong wind will require postponing your visit to the park.
- Remind students not to venture beyond ear shot and assign adults to teams as needed.

HABITAT GO / FIND IN FAUNTLEROY PARK

Working as a team, find the following habitat features and answer the questions about each, using what you already know about the natural world. Maybe you will learn more!



TEAM MEMBERS _____

FUNGUS ON ROTTING WOOD

1. Is the fungus alive? Try these clues to help you decide:

Likely Alive

- It's rubbery when I poke it with a stick.
- It's firmly attached to the rotting wood.
- I see new growth coming along.

Likely Dead

- It's hard and dry looking.
- It crumbles when I poke it with a stick.
- I don't see any new growth.

2. If it appears to be alive, where might it be getting food and water? _____

3. What do you see the fungus doing for this forest habitat? _____

A PLACE WHERE AN ANIMAL COULD TAKE SHELTER

1. What kind of animal might use this shelter? _____

2. Why might an animal need this shelter?

- to hide
- to nest
- to sleep
- to stay dry
- other _____

3. Do you see evidence that an animal has been here? _____ If so, what do you see?

- fur or feathers
- nesting material
- hulls or other food leavings
- droppings
- a rubbed-against look
- other _____

FRUIT -- A BERRY OR NUT

1. Why do plants make fruit? _____

2. Where might the fruit you found have come from?

- tree
- bush
- fern
- moss
- Safeway
- other _____

3. What animals might eat this fruit? _____

4. How might this fruit get moved to another part of the woods? _____

AN ANIMAL LIVING UNDER ROTTING WOOD

Find a piece of rotting wood on the ground. Gently lift it to have a look, then replace it.

1. What kinds of animal do you see? Check all kinds.

worm beetle spider insect centipede other _____

2. If you don't see an animal, do you see evidence that one has been here?

eggs or egg sacs tunnels droppings web other _____

3. Where might these animals be getting food and water? _____

4. What appears to make this place a good choice for these animals? _____

A PLANT OR ANIMAL THAT IS DECOMPOSING

1. What is decomposition? What happens when something decomposes?

2. What do you see that is helping decompose the plant or animal you've found?

worms and other critters moisture plant roots bird pecking human activity
 mold bacteria other _____

3. What results of decomposition do you see?

sawdust fresh dirt soft, mushy wood smell of decay unconnected body parts
 other _____

A PLANT LIVING ON ANOTHER LIVING PLANT

1. What kind of plant is this epiphyte (*pronounced "ep-ah-figh"*)?

fern vine moss fungus bush other _____

2. What kind of plant is it living on?

tree bush other _____

3. How might this epiphyte have gotten started here? _____

4. Where might this epiphyte be getting food and water? _____

97th Avenue
SW
Entrance

SW
Cambridge
Street
Entrance

Forest
Court SW
Entrance

Church
YMCA
Entrance

SW
Barton
Street
Entrance

BIG BRIDGE

EXPLORATION LIMITS IN FAUNTLEROY PARK

SUGGESTED  STOPPING POINTS

