

Little Laurie's Nature Scavenger Hunt

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Welcome to the world of Little Laurie's Science Stories! We're thrilled to bring you a delightful adventure that combines storytelling, fun, and scientific exploration.

Enclosed in this document, you'll find a charming Little Laurie story, perfect for sparking curiosity and setting the stage for your own nature scavenger hunt. We suggest reading this story with your children before beginning the hunt. This will set their imaginations alight and prepare them for the exciting exploration to come.

Also included is a sample list of items for your nature scavenger hunt. However, feel free to modify this list to suit your local environment, the current season, and the interests of your young explorers. The world is full of scientific wonders, and the best part of a scavenger hunt is the opportunity to discover and learn about the unique features of your own backyard.

Remember, the goal of this adventure is not just to learn about science, but to have fun! With Little Laurie's Science Stories, your children will see that science is not just a subject in school —it's a way of understanding and appreciating the world around us.

Enjoy the journey of exploration and discovery!

Best,
Renée Bandes
Creator of Little Laurie



Leaf, Flower, Bug, and Stone: Little Laurie's Nature Scavenger Hunt

On a sunny day in the park, under the sky so blue,
Little Laurie and Doodle had much to do.

"Look at these leaves," Laurie said with a grin,
"Not all are the same, some are fat, some are thin."

"And these flowers we see, in colors so bright,
Have different shapes, oh what a sight!"

Laurie's mom, with a twinkle in her eye,
Said, "Let's make a game, give it a try."

A nature scavenger hunt, a game of delight,
Finding nature's wonders from morning till night.

We'll find leaves of shapes, flowers of hue,
Bugs, rocks, and maybe a feather or two.

We'll take pictures, make rubbings, create a list,
There's so much in nature, too much to resist."

Laurie clapped her hands, her eyes a glow,
"A nature scavenger hunt, let's go, let's go!"

So off they went, Laurie the girl and Doodle the pig,
Into the park, ready to climb, search, and even dig.

To find nature's wonders, big and small,
And learn about the world that dazzles us all.

Scavenger Hunt Ideas

As you venture out into the wild, having a list of ideas ready can help your scavenger to stay on task. At the same time, encouraging their natural curiosity is important, so including a category for “What Else Did You Notice?” Can be a good way to engage in conversation while including the kids as our equals in the adventure.

For younger kids in preschool or kindergarten, it is important to keep the list simple. We recommend thinking more about categories than specific species. For example:

- Three different leaves
- Three different flowers
- Three different trees (look at bark, leaves, size, color)
- Three different bugs
- Three different color rocks

For older kids in 1st or 2nd grade, including some pictures on the scavenger list can help them with identifying specific varieties of flora and fauna. Try to use things that are common to your area; finding a sugar maple might be easy in New York, but a bit more difficult in New Mexico. It may also be useful to engage kids in research activities before heading out. Help them look up various local plants, minerals, and animals so they have an idea about what they might see.

Some things to include on your scavenger hunt list for older kids:

- Different local trees
- Native grasses and plants
- Different rocks and minerals
- Different species of birds they might see
- Animal tracks
- Human impacts such as litter
- Different nuts for seeds that might be in season

Collecting Data

As your child finds each item, we can help them document their finds. For delicate, endangered, or mobile finds (like critters on the move), a picture can suffice. Some children enjoy “being famous”, and will perk up if you give them the chance to document their find on video. Help them describe what they see by asking for details about color, position, etc.

For more solid items, such as leaves, bark, or rocks, your child may enjoy making a rubbing. To make a rubbing, simply put a piece of paper over the item and use chalk or a crayon to rub across the paper. The dimensional details of the item will show as lighter and darker areas on the paper.

When appropriate, some kids enjoy collecting items and making a display of their finds, such as posters or a diorama. This is a good time to discuss our impact on nature. We can teach kids about not disturbing nature by collecting things like eggs, endangered or protected species of plants, or even living bugs and other creatures. However, we can impact our environment in a positive way by collecting things like trash and other litter.

Once your explorer has collected their data, encourage them to tell you about it. Let them lead the discussion, and ask open ended questions to help prompt deeper thought.