

Activity: Seek, Find, and Share Seasons: Kit 061

Benchmark: Sort objects into two groups: those that are found in nature and those that are human made. (0.1.2.1.1)

Focus: Children become aware of the science possibilities in their surroundings as they look for objects to add to the class collection.



Materials: Containers to collect objects in, such as baskets, buckets, or plastic bags.

Setting: Children look outdoors, at home, and elsewhere for objects to add to the collection, and share them periodically at class meetings.

Once you and your class have determined the type of objects you want to collect and study (e.g., rocks, shells, seeds, leaves, feathers, flowers, twigs, etc.) enlist the children's help in building your class collection. This will heighten children's awareness of science in their everyday lives and help them become invested in the study. (See "Preparing for the Collections from Nature Study" on page 65 for suggestions about deciding on a collection and initiating this study.)

If appropriate, take the children for a walk outdoors, including stops at nature areas or a raingarden if present. They will search for objects to add to the class collection. In addition, provide collecting containers for them to use regularly during outdoor time. Tell them to keep an eye out for interesting additions whenever they are outside. For some collections, such as rocks or shells, family members might have interesting samples they are willing to share with the class temporarily.

Teacher Note: Arrange for children to keep special objects they don't want to lose separate from the class collection. They can place these objects in the Science Center in small boxes or on index cards with their name. For very special objects, children can share them during a class meeting, put them out for observation at choice time, and take them home at the end of the day.

Language Arts Extension

Enlist the children's help in writing a letter to families explaining the study and asking them to loan relevant objects to the class for a short time. You might want to use this letter in place of, or supplement, the Family Letter on page 69.

Math Extension

Put a tally sheet in the Science Center to keep a running count of the collection as it accumulates.

Connections

Begin the Collection Study with this activity. It would work well to follow this activity with "Think and Wonder."

