

**Fall Scavenger Hunt**  
September 2019  
Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson #1

**Objective:** Reintroduce the School Garden in its end of summer/start of fall state to the class through a visual scavenger hunt. Reintroduce concepts of sensory observation, being a naturalist, scientist and artist outdoors. The lesson provides a broad overview of the fall-time school garden, when it is still abundant following a long summer of growth, and reinforces how scientists, artists and naturalists use their senses to make observations.

**Time/location:** The entire lesson can be done in 30-40 minutes in the school garden.

**Materials:** Find & Collect Sheet, clipboards and pencils, optional 2 egg cartons (garden parents to provide)

**Poem: September**, by Helen Hunt Jackson 1892

**The Lesson:**

**Part 1 / Intro Circle 5 min**

- Students will stand in a circle, introduce themselves and say one thing that they remember from the garden (or if new what they have noticed)
- Based on each comment, the moderator can introduce concepts of observation / scientist / naturalist / artist / gardener etc - What do we all observe? It is different for everyone. [Numbers, colors, the breeze, bird chirps.](#)

**Part 2 / Find 15 min**

- Give each child a scavenger hunt sheet to find different plants in the garden. Encourage students to make observations as they hunt. ([shapes, colors, textures, rough or spiky, number of petals, bright or dull, name](#))
- After 15-20 minutes regroup and talk through what they found in each garden bed.

**Part 3 / Beginning A Fall Nature Collection 10min**

- The kids are now asked to collect a specimen [of their](#) favorite, it must be small enough to fit in an egg carton. *A Specimen is one small sample used as an example for study or display. Like a small 'Spec'*
- Discuss how scientists and naturalists take specimens of nature while also leaving enough behind.
- students can observe, photograph, and draw these specimens as they change from fresh to dry..
- Students can begin to classify these specimens

**-Deep Breath Pause:** [Breathe in the air just the way the roots absorb in the water, feel it go to all parts of your body, \(feel the water going up your trunk, into your branches, out to the leaves, make food, and evaporate\) and breath out.](#)

**Part 4 / Poetry & Movement (September)5 min**

Gather in a circle, and read this poem encouraging students to move as they read.

[Read Each Line and ask students to Repeat After- Try it a second time, with movements.](#)

**September (excerpt)**

BY Helen Hunt Johnson 1892  
The goldenrod is yellow;  
The corn is turning brown'  
The trees in apple orchards  
With fruit are bending down.

-Ask each child: [what are you excited about for Fall?](#)

**Fall Find & Collect Hunt**

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Haldane Garden September  
Scavenger Answer Key

1. Zinnia
2. Aster
3. Purple Amaranth
4. Beautyberry (American)
5. Marigold
6. Strawflower
7. Black-Eyed Susan
8. Sunflower (Hopi Black Dye)
9. Cosmos
10. Coneflower / Echinacea
11. Colchicum (the Giant)