

Fall Sensory Scavenger Hunt
Look...Smell, Sniff, Press
2018 September/October
2nd Grade Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson #1

Objective: This lesson provides a broad overview of the fall-time school garden , when it is still abundant following a long summer of growth, and reintroduces concepts of sensory observation, **being a naturalist, scientist and artist outdoors**. Students will be encouraged to use a sensory alphabet to make observations in the school garden, and then can press specimens of the leaves and petals found into fabric. After making their pressings, they will be encouraged to use any of the plant names they found, as well as their short vowel and bonus letter words, **'look, smell, sniff, press'** to write an observation sentence.

Time/location: The lesson should be done in 35-45 minutes in the school garden.

Materials: Scavenger Sheet, clipboards and pencils, smooth rocks, cotton fabric or regular white paper (pre-folded & name-labeled), cardboard sheets(in garden shed)

Poem: *September*, by Helen Hunt Jackson 1892

The Lesson:

Part 1 / The Scavenger Hunt, Look, Smell, Sniff 15 min

-Ask the kids how scientists (including naturalists) make observations? *After several responses, which might include tools (cameras, pencils etc..) encourage them to think about how they make observations with their own senses.*

-Give each child a scavenger hunt sheet (set up on clipboard with a pencil) to find different plants in the garden. Encourage students to make sensory observations as they hunt. (shapes, colors, textures, rough or spiky, number of petals, bright or dull, name) *Mark each plant you find. Work in pairs or groups if you like.*

-After about 10 minutes, re-group into a circle and ask for volunteers to describe one of their favorite finds in the garden.

EXPLAIN PART 2 OR SKIP TO PART 3.

Part 2 / Collect Specimens to Press 15 min

-The students are now asked to collect specimens of their favorite petals and leaves,

-Show the students how scientists and naturalists take specimens of nature while also leaving enough behind.

(1 petal or leaf from a plant, not the the whole flowerhead or stem- if less is blooming, have them focus on 2-3 plants)

-Each student brings the specimens back to their folded sheet and smooth rock station, arranges them inside then folds over and and begins to pound the specimens to see what happens. *(Garden Parents will set up student stations (prelabeled with their names) ahead of time.*

-These will need to be collected and dried by the GPs and then returned to the students. GP's can experiment with washing, photographing, labeling. Discuss symmetry, pattern, art, scientific experimentation may come up next time, or when writing about the pressings.

Part 3 / Write About Nature. 10-15 min

-Ask the students to write at least 1 observation sentence about one of their favorite petals, leaves, or pressing.

-The sentence is an observation about how the specimens or pressing looks, feels, smells, or makes them feel.

-It can be a poetic observation or a scientific observation. (or both!)

-Try to use your scavenger sheet to use the correct plant name, and if you're stuck, it is helpful to use the words **'look, smell, sniff, press'** **bonus letter words!**

Part 4 / Poetry & Movement (September) **5 min** *(Optional, this was the poem of the week in Library-Garden with Ms.Lewellyn, last week, so it will reinforce what they've learned- or you can choose another poem that is related to this season or the activity)*
Gather in a circle, and read this excerpt. Call Out Each Line and Kids Repeat After. **Try to add a movement for each line.**

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.

Haldane Garden September/October Look
Smell, Sniff, Press



Indigo__



Coreopsis__



Marigold__



Zinnia__



Dahlia__



Impatiens__



Cardinal
Creeper__



Shiso__



Purple
Basil__



Lab Lab__



Orange
Cosmos__



Anemone__



Nasturtium__



Cosmos__

