Kids Explore!

Natural Harvest Scavenger Hunt

Next time you go on a walk in your neighborhood or a nearby park, see if you can find any of the following signs that your natural neighbors have been feasting!

- ❑ **A spider web:** This sticky net is a spider's meal trap. Do you see any insects wrapped up and saved for later, or just empty exoskeletons?
- ❑ **Scattered seeds:** Look for these in flower gardens, on the ground, and in overgrown meadows. Imagine seeing them through the eyes of a bird or a mouse. Tasty treats!
- ❑ **A pile of feathers:** Unfortunately for the bird who once wore them, this clue on the ground might mean a feathery friend got eaten for lunch, maybe by a hungry fox or hawk. Hopefully not by someone's kitty!
- ❑ **A cracked nut:** Acorns and filberts make delicious meals for squirrels and other forest critters. Humans can eat them as well. Acorns require extra work to remove the tannins but filberts are good just as they are...or better yet toasted!
- ❑ **Chewed leaf:** Are the chewed parts in the middle of the leaf or on the edges? These observations might help you guess who had this leaf for lunch and how long ago.
- ❑ **Scat:** What's that? Just a science word for poop! If you find some, what can you tell about the animal that left it behind? Was the creature large or small? Was it an herbivore, a carnivore, or an omnivore?

- ❑ **Berries:** Summer is long gone, but you can probably still find some berries lingering on vines and in bushes. These bits of food can be valuable nutrition in the winter for hungry birds and animals.
- ❑ **Holes in a tree trunk:** Listen for the tapping sound of a woodpecker pecking these holes. What might be hiding beneath the bark? Tasty insects — yummy!
- ❑ **Branch or tree trunk with tooth marks:** You will probably need to walk near a pond, stream, or river to find this one. What animal likes to feast on the tasty cambium layer just below the bark? Beaver!

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