

GET OUTSIDE *with*



Disney's Friends for Change inspires kids and families to work together to make a difference in their world. One way to make a difference is to spend time in nature and learn more about the world around you. When's the last time you took a hike with your friends and family? Waded in a stream? Spotted a beautiful butterfly or a fast-flying bat? Or caught a frog or touched a sea star?

Scientists are finding that spending time in nature has a host of benefits—from making you healthier and happier and maybe even a little smarter. And it can also help you make a very personal connection to the environment.

So grab your friends and family and

GET OUTSIDE



Scavenger Hunt: GET THE CONNECTION

Every living and nonliving thing in the natural world, whether it's a rock, a river, a beetle, or a bird, is connected to many other things in complex ways. Take part in this scavenger hunt to look for connections in the natural world. Take this list outside, and make notes when you find something that fits one of the categories.

TIPS FOR SCAVENGER HUNTING:

- Please do not collect any living things you find. Instead, draw a picture of those animals and plants that you want to remember and find out more about. (It's OK to collect dead leaves, nuts, and other plant parts that do not kill or harm the plant.)
- Please do not collect habitats that are not your own like bird nests, bee hive or coral reef.
- Be gentle when turning over rocks and logs. Return rocks, logs, and plant matter to their original location.

CAN YOU FIND...

1. A small animal that a bigger animal depends on in some way (insects are food for many animals)?
2. A big animal that a smaller animal depends on in some way?
3. A wild animal that can thrive in or around people's homes?
4. An animal that eats dead things?
5. A plant that benefits humans in some way?
6. An animal that benefits humans because of the role it plays in its habitat?
7. An animal that harms humans in some way?
8. An animal that spends its life in two different habitats?
9. An animal that eats seeds or fruits and then spreads the seeds by passing them as waste?
10. Something that turns into soil?

NEED SOME HINTS? HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

1. Insects are food for many animals; mice and other small rodents are food for snakes, hawks, and other bigger animals, as are frogs and toads.
2. Fleas and ticks depend on bigger animals such as squirrels; mosquitoes depend on humans and other warm-blooded animals.
3. Pretty much any creature you see outside your home that isn't someone's pet, from a mosquito to a sparrow to a coyote, is a wild animal!
4. Lots of insects eat dead things – they're called detritivores (dih-**trahy**-tuh-vawr, -vohr). Examples include earthworms, millipedes, slugs, and vultures!
5. Trees provide us with much-needed shade in the summer, as well as wood for building things. All kinds of plants can be food for humans – even unexpected ones, like dandelions, which are a great source of Vitamins A, B, C and D!
6. Spiders may give you the creeps, but they trap and eat pests like flies and mosquitoes. Bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds all help pollinate our plants.
7. Mosquitoes can carry deadly diseases like malaria (though not in the United States). Flies can also spread disease.
8. Many birds migrate south in the winter and north in the summer. Chances are there are many migratory birds that pass through your community, from chimney swifts to Canada geese!
9. You may not have too many black bears in your community (though perhaps you do!), but there are other animals that eat fruits and help spread their seeds around, including American robins and cedar waxwings. Did you know that fruit-eating animals are called "frugivores"?
10. Anything you can see outside that's living will eventually turn into soil – from leaves and bark to birds and bees! We can thank the world's detritivores (creatures that eat dead material) for that amazing service. Without their help we'd be surrounded by piles and piles of dead stuff – yuck!