

## Nature explorers

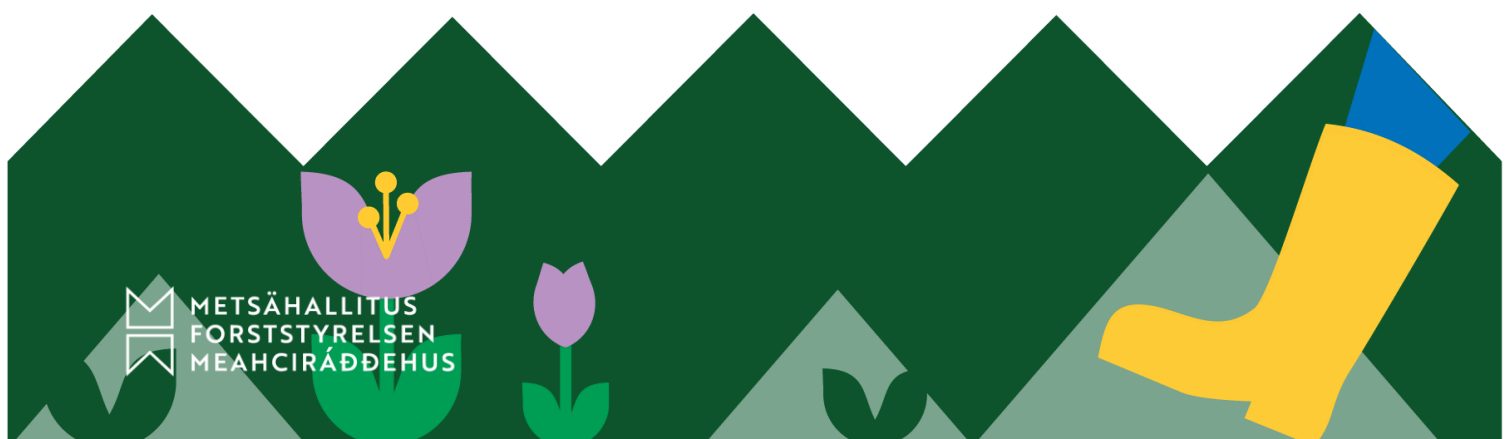
<b>For whom:</b> All grades	<b>Where:</b> Outdoors, in the forest
<b>Wilderness passport section:</b> Out and about in nature	<b>When:</b> Spring, summer and autumn
<b>Learning outcomes:</b> Learning to recognise species, getting to know the natural environment and learning to be observant.	<b>What you need:</b> A sheet of paper with a list of different things to be found in nature, bags
<b>Duration:</b> 30 to 60 minutes	<b>Personnel resources:</b> 1

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the pupils into small groups. Hand each group a list of different things they can find in nature (such as plants or natural objects). You can also give the groups bags in which they can carry their finds.
2. Tell the groups to find as many of the items on the list as possible in the agreed area. Decide a time limit (for example 20 to 30 minutes) for looking for the natural objects. Points are awarded for each item on the list, with the most challenging/rarer items earning higher points.
3. When the agreed time is up, the groups meet and go through each group's finds. The group with the highest score wins.

The teacher can prepare the lists and decide the points scored for natural objects based on what might be found in nature in each season. The items on the lists should be varied according to the environment in which the assignment is completed and the pupils' age. Older pupils should be given more challenging lists which can, for instance, be used to teach them to identify plants.

*(the original idea for this assignment came from the book *Friluftslivets pedagogik*)*



**Sample list**

FINDS AND POINTS	My points
silver birch leaf – 3 points	
aspen leaf – 3 points	
pine needle – 2 points	
spruce needle – 2 points	
moss – 2 points	
lichen – 3 points	
pine cone – 2 points	
spruce cone – 2 points	
acorn – 4 points	
bird feather – 6 points	
flower seed – 4 points	
small, round stone – 4 points	
an insect with 6 legs – 7 points	
lingonberry shrub – 3 points	
a cone nibbled at by a squirrel – 5 points	
<b>Total:</b>	

The points scored for each find on the list should be determined based on how challenging finding them is in the area where the task is completed. You should also consider the points based on how detailed a description the list gives (for example, a plant with a white flower vs. an Arctic star-flower).

