



Wednesdays in the Woods Activity: Un-nature trail

Materials Needed:

- 'Un-nature' objects – objects not typically found outdoors in nature – which can be gathered from around the house, the garden shed, the recycling bin...
- A washable bag to collect the objects

Instructions:

1. Go outdoors and partially hide the 'un-nature' objects along an established trail or in various locations around the yard or other outdoor space. Make sure at least part of each object is visible.
2. Challenge participants to walk the 'un-nature' trail and find the objects you hid. Do not tell them what they are seeking ahead of time!
3. Collect objects in a washable bag...make sure you remember how many objects you hid and where. Participants might not find them all!

Reflective Questions:

- Which objects stood out the most? The least? Why?
- What choices did you notice the hider made in the process of creating this trail? How would you have designed the trail differently?
- What is the most unexpected thing you have found outside?
- Are these objects really 'un-nature' objects, or are they all connected with nature in some way (e.g., are they made with materials derived from nature?)

Extensions of this activity

- Challenge participants to trace the origins of each object, for instance, a wooden spoon might be traced to a maple tree!
- Have participants make their own 'un-nature' trails with the same or new materials
- Allow participants to reflect on the statement, "I am part of the environment." What are examples of ways we interact with the environment?