

ENVIROLOPES

Activity 7

AGE LEVEL = 9-11 (7-12)
DURATION = 20-30 min.
LEARNING STATION = Outdoors
RELATED ACTIVITIES = \longleftrightarrow Dozen
Touches
 \longleftrightarrow A Thinker's Scavenger Hunt

WHEN = 



UNDERSTANDING: There are a variety of colors, forms, textures and organisms in any outdoor site.

MATERIALS:

For each pair of children:

- A business-sized envelope with an envirolope challenge on it.

PREPARATION: Select a site where collecting small samples of leaves, rocks and so on is possible. Prepare envelopes.

LESSON:

Warm-up: Gather in a sharing circle. Divide the group into teams of two, point out the boundaries and hand out the envirolopes.

Activity: Allow 15 minutes for the children to find samples that fit into their envelopes. Circulate among the teams and offer encouragement and suggestions if needed.

Wrap-up: Return to a sharing circle and ask each team to share their findings. Use the collections as a starting point to talk about patterns, coloration and so on.

OPTIONS AND FURTHER EXPLORATIONS:

1. If collecting samples is a problem, give the children paper and crayons and ask them to draw pictures of the objects they see.
2. Repeat the activity using the same challenges, at a different site, or at a different time of the year. Compare the results and discuss similarities and differences.
3. Use the collections to make a collage.
4. Instead of writing the challenges on the outside of the envelopes, write them on a piece of paper kept inside, so each team keeps its challenge a secret. When the group regathers, pass the envelopes around and try to guess what the challenges were, based on the samples collected.

ENVIROLOPES CHALLENGES

Here is a list of suggested challenges. Find...

- five differently shaped leaves.
- examples of at least five different textures.
- examples of at least five different odors or smells.
- at least five samples of the same object, each of a different color.
- at least five objects with different shades of the same color.
- at least five different kinds of evidence of an animal's presence.
- at least five different kinds of evidence of a human's presence.
- at least five different kinds of rocks.

These are just some examples. Create more, or better yet, encourage the kids to create their own challenges!