

Backyard Summer Scavenger Hunt

2-12 players | About 25 minutes | Ages 5+

PRINT & PREPARE

Print one observation checklist per team. No items need to be collected. Print single-sided on US Letter at 100% (actual size). For A4, choose Fit. Cut only pages labeled cut-out cards; dotted borders are cutting guides. Adults handle cutting.

GATHER

Paper, Pencils, Clipboards.

SET UP

Make a list of ten things guests can observe in a defined outdoor area. Ask players to point, draw, or write rather than collect plants or disturb wildlife.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Explain the boundaries and put children in pairs with adult supervision appropriate to the space.
2. Give teams 15 minutes to find and record as many list items as possible.
3. Bring everyone back to a shaded meeting spot and compare answers.
4. Give one point per observed item or simply celebrate a complete group list. Accept different reasonable examples.

ADAPT IT

For a patio, use colors and shapes rather than nature-specific items. For rain, play from a window and describe what you can see.

HOST NOTE

No tasting plants, reaching into hidden spaces, or leaving the defined area. Choose a time and location that suit the weather.

Backyard observation hunt

Team: _____. Check the item and describe where you saw it.

Name / team: _____

Something yellow

A leaf with a jagged edge

A shadow

Something round

A bird you can hear

Backyard hunt, continued

Observe without picking plants or disturbing wildlife. Stay in the agreed area.

Name / team: _____

A smooth stone

Something taller than you

A flower

A cloud

Something that moves in the breeze
