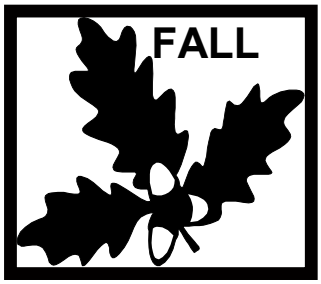

Exploration of Seeds and Grasses

On-site guidelines for free exploration

Prior to the first field trip in the fall, have students make a nature journal. Each season, students will do a different nature exploration at their site. They will then record the results of their exploration in their journals.

At the end of each field trip, after the free exploration time, spend some time having the students recall things that they discovered or learned. Have the students stand in a circle, and go around the circle and have each student describe what he/she experienced during the field trip that was new to him/her. If a student can't think of something, skip him/her and go back to that student later.

Procedure

Divide the time remaining in half with your students. Spend the first half of the remaining time on Part 1 and the second half of the time on Part 2.

Part 1—Discuss with students where different seeds can be found. Make sure the discussion includes trees, flowers, grasses, and shrubs. Now ask students to find and sketch as many different types of seeds as they can find. They should also include a sketch of the plant that the seed has come from.

Part 2—Now instruct students to find and sketch as many different types of grasses as they can.

Make sure that students understand that nothing should be picked, just sketched.