

## **UN-NATURE HIKE**

**Lesson By:** Joseph Urban

**Grade Level:** First

**Adapted From:** Sharing Nature With Children by Joseph Cornell

**Focus:** This lesson will address the increasing issue of trash and debris in our natural landscapes and what we can do to stop it.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will use observation skills to pick out trash on the trail.
2. Students will think of ways to apply trash reduction.

### **Standards:**

#### **SCI.1.4.1 2010**

Use all senses as appropriate to sort objects as being composed of materials that are naturally occurring, human made or a combination of the two.

### **Materials:**

1. Man-made objects or debris
2. Trail

### **Procedures: (20 Minutes Total)**

1. Before starting the activity with the children choose a portion of the trail in which you will hold the activity.
2. Along the trail place 16 to 24 man-made objects, preferably off the trail where they will be hard to find with the children. Make sure to remember where each item is located.
3. Instruct the students that there are hidden objects on the side of the trail that shouldn't belong to nature. Tell them to walk the section of the trail and count how many man-made objects they see. This can be done individually or in pairs.
4. When they finish the section of the trail they will come up to the instructor and whisper how many objects they have found.
5. In response the instructor can tell them how many objects there actually is or tell the student how much they found in a percentage or fraction.
6. The activity will end when all the students have located all the objects or if time is running out.
7. Make sure to pick up ALL the items before moving on to the discussion.
8. Discuss with the students that now, more than ever, trash and other unnatural things are becoming part of areas with amazing nature like parks, trails, forest, etc. Ask the students to think of reasons why this might be bad to the environment. Some responses should include that they make nature less beautiful, it takes a while for trash and debris to break down, and sometimes they release bad and harmful chemicals.
9. Ask the students what they can do to help this problem.

### **Evaluation:**

1. Instructors will evaluate by seeing if all the students identified every object.
2. Students will write a journal entry on how they would reduce trash in our environment.

