

FOSTER THE IMAGINATION · NOVEMBER 2026

Nature Hunt: Sticks, Seeds & Sink-or-Float

Walk, look closely, check off what you find. Then test your finds at home.
Name: _____

Find it outside

- [ ] A stick shaped like a letter (Y? L?)
- [ ] A stick longer than your arm (leave it there)
- [ ] An acorn, with or without its cap
- [ ] A pinecone
- [ ] A seed that flies, like a maple "helicopter"
- [ ] A seed pod that rattles
- [ ] A red leaf and a yellow leaf
- [ ] A leaf with a hole (someone had lunch)
- [ ] Soft green moss (look, don't pick)
- [ ] A mushroom or shelf fungus (look only!)
- [ ] A bird you can hear but can't see
- [ ] Something that made you say "whoa"

Tillo's pick: find a shrub with skinny, crinkly yellow flowers on bare twigs. That's witch hazel, blooming after the leaves fall. Are the petals curled up (cold) or open (warm)?



Sink or float?

My find	I guess	It did
	S / F	S / F
	S / F	S / F
	S / F	S / F
	S / F	S / F
	S / F	S / F
	S / F	S / F

Use a bowl of water at the table. Count to ten. Then put your finds back outside.

Draw your best find:



Safety rules

- A grown-up comes along. Stay together on paths and lawns.
- Nothing goes in your mouth: no berries, seeds, mushrooms or leaves.
- Leaves of three, let it be. Poison ivy can be red in fall.
- Wash your hands when you get home.
- Tick check after: hair, ears, behind knees, waist.
- Leave nature where you found it. In parks, take a picture instead.
- No creeks or ponds. Water play stays at the table.

Safety tips: CDC (ticks, poison ivy) and Virginia Dept. of Health