AMA®
ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

AUTHORIZED AMA
STE(A)M PROGRAM

QUICK PROJECT SCAVENGER HUNT

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACADEMY OF
MODEL AERONAUTICS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SUPPLIES

Journal Sheet *(these instructions)*

Writing Utensil *(pen, pencil, marker)*

STANDARDS

Science and Engineering Process Standards (SEPS)

SEPS.1 Posing questions.
A practice of science is posing and refining questions that lead to descriptions and explanations of how the natural and designed world(s) work and these questions can be scientifically tested.

SEPS.3 Constructing and performing investigations.
Scientists and engineers are constructing and performing investigations in the field or laboratory, working collaboratively as well as individually. Researching analogous problems in order to gain insight into possible solutions allows them to make conjectures about the form and meaning of the solution. A plan to a solution pathway is developed before constructing and performing investigations. Constructing investigations systematically encompasses identified variables and parameters generating quality data. While performing, scientists and engineers monitor and record progress. After performing, they evaluate to make changes to modify and repeat the investigation if necessary.

SEPS.4 Analyzing and interpreting data.
Investigations produce data that must be analyzed in order to derive meaning. Because data patterns and trends are not always obvious, scientists and engineers use a range of tools to identify the significant features in the data.

SEPS.6 Constructing explanations.
Scientists and engineers use their results from the investigation in constructing descriptions and explanations, citing the interpretation of data, and connecting the investigation to how the natural and designed world(s) work.

SEPS.8 Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.
Scientists and engineers need to clearly communicate and articulate the ideas and methods they generate. Critiquing and communicating ideas individually and in groups is a critical professional activity.

BACKYARD SCAVENGER HUNTS

Participating in a scavenger hunt with your child is not only a fun way to pass the time, but it can help develop essential skills for young learners! Keep reading to learn why scavenger hunts are so beneficial.

Scavenger Hunts...

Build problem-solving skills!

Scavenger hunts employ hands-on learning, which actively involves the child in the learning process. In doing so, parents can help allow their child to practice problem solving in tangible ways, increase memory of previously learned concepts, and increase their retention of the concepts learned.

Teach perseverance!

Scavenger hunts are designed to be a challenge–a fun challenge, of course, but still a challenge to be solved. They are also designed to encourage patience and delayed gratification. A scavenger hunt isn't meant to be solved in a matter of minutes. Encourage your child to find the items on the scavenger hunt list without any help from you; your role is to facilitate and supervise.

Encourage teamwork!

Especially when done as a family, scavenger hunts are the ideal opportunity to encourage teamwork among children. Even young children can be taught to appreciate their playmates' contributions to the hunt and be mindful of others. Emphasize that the scavenger hunt is not a competition between the participants, but a goal to be reached as a team.

Improve self-expression!

When doing a scavenger hunt as a family or team, the participants will not only have to work on their problem-solving skills, improve their ability to face challenges, and develop good teamwork strategies, but they will also learn to communicate better with others. Team members must be able to communicate well with each other to help find everything on the list.

Improve observation skills!

Scavenger hunts are all about observation. Your your child will learn how to better observe the world around them and pay attention to small details. Scavenger hunts encourage children to become more aware of their surroundings, even when the hunt has come to an end.

Take a moment to observe your surroundings. What is the weather like where you are? Is it sunny, or cloudy, or rainy? If there is thunder in your vicinity, make sure to go indoors as soon as possible and do the scavenger hunt from inside!

1. What is the date of your observations?
2. Is it spring, summer, fall, or winter?
3. Is it windy and if so, from which direction is the wind coming?
4. Does the weather today match what you would expect for the season?
5. Can you find any flying insects? What do you see? What kind of insects are they? What are they doing?
6. Look around for birds. What are they doing? What type of birds do you think they are? Are they flying? Are there any leaves falling? What color are they?
7. Do you see anything floating in the air, like dandelions or fluff from cottonwood trees? Why do you think plants do this?
8. Do you have any maple trees in your backyard or neighborhood? Are their seeds falling from the trees? What do they remind you of?
9. Do you see any airplanes flying overhead? Ask your parent or guardian where the nearest airport is to your house, how far away is it?

notes:

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