NORTH CAROLINA
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Forest Scavenger Hunt

How many can you find?
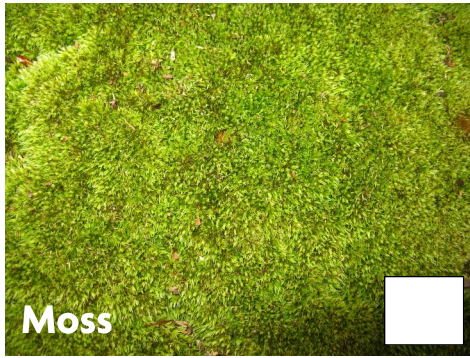
Millipede

Fern

Animal Tracks

Moss

Tree Cavity

Fungus

Tulip Tree Leaf

Nuts

Poison Ivy

Pinecone

Bird Nest

Beech Leaf

Chickadee

Heartleaf

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Find a millipede.

Millipedes are herbivores and decomposers who can be found in the forest under rotting logs.

Find a fern.

Ferns are an ancient group of plants that have existed since dinosaurs walked the earth.

Find animal tracks.

Look for animal tracks near water or just after it rains as mud and sand easily show tracks. The animal track in the picture is from a deer.

Find moss.

Mosses are most common in damp and shady areas but can be found growing in a variety of places including on rocks and trees.

Find a tree cavity.

Tree cavities can be used by a variety of animals as habitat such as racoons, owls, woodpeckers, and squirrels.

Find fungus.

Mushrooms, yeasts, and molds are all types of fungi. The part of a fungus that you see is usually only a small part of the organism.

Find a squirrel.

Eastern gray squirrels eat many parts of plants, not just nuts. They are actually omnivores and will also eat insects, eggs, and baby birds.

Find a tulip tree leaf.

Tulip trees are one of the tallest trees found in North Carolina. They can grow to be over 100 feet tall.

Find nuts.

Many local trees produce nuts such as oak, pecan, hickory, walnut, and beech.

Find poison ivy.

Don't touch! Although the oil from poison ivy can cause an itchy rash for humans, other animals eat the fruit and leaves.

Find a pinecone.

Pinecones can help you identify the species of pine tree. Our state tree is simply the pine tree rather than a specific species.

Find a bird nest.

Birds build nests as a place to lay their eggs and raise their young. Most birds only use their nest while they are raising their babies.

Find a beech leaf.

Although beech leaves change color in autumn, unlike most deciduous trees the leaves don't fall until winter.

Find a chickadee.

Carolina chickadees are often seen at bird feeders even though they prefer to eat insects.

Find heartleaf.

Heartleaf plants are named after their heart-shaped leaves which grow close to the ground.