

ECO-FRIENDLY SCAVENGER HUNT

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OBJECTIVE //

- To enable participants to recognize environmentally-friendly practices in their home
- To identify areas for improvement

TIME // 1 hour

GROUP SIZE // Any

MATERIALS //

- Scavenger Hunt List for each participant (easiest if you print it out in advance)
NB: If possible, print lists on the backs of used paper to reduce your environmental impact
- Pens/pencils for each participant

ACTIVITY GUIDE

STEP 1 //

Explain the Scavenger Hunt to the group:

"We're going on a Scavenger Hunt to find out just how environmentally-friendly our homes are. Your Scavenger Hunt List contains both environmentally-friendly and environmentally-harmful items. Search your apartment or house, and count how many of each you find."

Give participants a time limit of 30 minutes to complete the scavenger hunt. Remind participants to be respectful of the rooms they search, and to leave the rooms exactly as they found them.

You can do this on your own or divide the tasks with anyone in your home who'd like to participate.

STEP 2 //

When the group reassembles, go through each row of the list and have participants type how many of each item they found in the group chat. (eg. You say and paste: "Incandescent light bulbs" into the group chat, and participant answers are 0, 3, 2, 8). This way, participants can compare their findings with the rest of the group. Participant reflection is welcome but not necessary at this stage (chat box or audio sharing).

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STEP 3 // POST-ACTIVITY DISCUSSION

Ask the group to assess, based on their findings, whether they think that their home is environmentally-friendly. Use these additional prompts if needed: *Is there anything that surprised you when you did the scavenger hunt around your house? Anything you hadn't considered before?*

Have the group brainstorm areas that can be improved in order to make their home more environmentally-friendly. Examples might include:

- Starting a compost bin (if you don't already have one).

eg.) If you live in an apartment, research a location near your house or convenient for you where you can drop your compost. Are there public compost bins near you, or a compost bin that a neighbour might allow you to add your weekly contribution? Once we're back at school or at your work, would we consider bringing our waste there? What would incentivize us to make this extra effort?

- Little messages or drawings to post around 'problems areas' to remind ourselves about how we can make more environmentally-conscious choices.

For example, a little sticky in our bathroom to remind us to turn off our taps while brushing, or to only pull off as much floss as we need (its less than you think!).

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SCAVENGER HUNT LIST:

NON-ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY		ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY	
ITEM	COUNT	ITEM	COUNT
Incandescent light bulbs		Energy-efficient light bulbs	
Garbage cans		Compost & recycling bins	
Disposable water bottles		Reusable water bottles	
Plastic cutlery & disposable cups & plates for parties/picnics		Reusable cutlery, plates, cups for parties/picnics	
Regular kitchen appliances		Energy-efficient kitchen appliances	
Electrical cords plugged in, and power bars on, when not in use		Electrical cords unplugged & power bars off, when not in use	
Drafty windows & doors; Windows open when heater is on		Well-sealed windows & doors; Windows closed when heater is on	
Regular printer paper		Recycled/unbleached/sustainably sourced printer paper	
Disposable ink/toner cartridges		Refillable ink/toner cartridges	
Electric pencil sharpeners		Manual pencil sharpeners	
Air fresheners		Plants that clean the air	
Reg.(heavy)-flow shower head/s		Low-flow shower head/s	
Lights ON in unused rooms		Lights OFF in unused rooms	
Other:		Other:	