

Neighborhood Naturalist Scavenger Hunt 1 Early Spring
Age level Preschool-1st Grade
By Under The Canopy



Spring is all around us! Now is the perfect time to go for a walk in your neighborhood and delight in all the early spring wonders. Follow the guide below and learn more about what is growing and living in most neighborhoods. Good luck and happy hunting!



○ **Henbit flower**

This common weed is one of the first to flower in Oklahoma, creating beautiful, fairy, meadows of violet color across many lawns. Not only is it pretty to look at but it is also an important source of nectar for pollinators just waking from their winters nap.



○ **Robin Bird**

Robins are the perfect backyard bird to start your bird study! They are very common and once you hear their song you will be able to identify it most anywhere you go. I love to hear the robin outside my window each morning. Robins also watch out for each other. Robins warn all birds and small animals with a special call when predators are near. They are often found hunting for worms in lawns.



○ **Moss and lichen on tree bark**

Moss and lichen are small plants that help filter the air in our environment. They live on trees and rocks. When you find some, run your hands across it,

how does it feel? Does it have a smell? It takes these plants a long time to grow so after you are done touching it, leave it in its place.



○ **Red Bud Tree**

This is the perfect time of year to see the Red Bud Tree in bloom! Most neighborhoods have an abundance of this Oklahoma state tree. Look closely at the flower buds, they are the same shape as pea flowers that is because the Red Bud is in the same family as the pea and the flowers are edible and delicious! Note: Do not eat any wild plants unless you are with an adult who knows the plant is safe to eat. If you decide to have a taste just take a few blossoms, our pollinator friends need the blossoms too.



○ **Neighborhood Pet**

Many of your neighbors have furry friends. See if you can find one to pet on your walk. Remember to ask the owner before you pet a dog.



○ **Reflections in Puddles**

Spring is full of rain puddles. The reflections in water open up your neighborhood in new upside-down ways. Find a puddle and peer inside it. What do you see? We found a circular world of tree branches in a birdbath.



○ **Tree Buds and Seeds**

In this season of new beginnings be on the hunt for trees with seeds and leaves budding out on the tips of many deciduous tree branches. On our walk we found a Maple tree covered in green helicopter seeds called samaras. If

you find this seed make sure you throw it in the air and watch it spin down just like the wings of a helicopter.



○

Evergreen Tree

Some trees lose their leaves in the winter and some keep their greenery all year long. Try to find a tree that's leaves are large, waxy and green like the magnolia or with needles like the pine or juniper tree.



○

Red Leaves

Some plants start out green but some are red when they first leaf out. Try to find a leaf like this rose bush that is red.



○

Dandelion

Dandelions are a common, spring weed. They can be recognized by their toothy, whirled leaves and yellow flower heads. This harbinger of spring is a delightful, happy plant that grows in most people's lawns. If you see many dandelions try picking one and swirling the yellow pollen on your chin. If you do this, it is said you will be welcome everywhere you go and your wishes will be granted.

Enjoy the delight of early spring! Take photos on your walk and post them with the hashtag #underthecanopynature