



## SIXTEEN GREAT NATURE HIKES FOR FAMILIES

1. **ABC Hike:** Each member of your group attempts to find natural objects beginning with each letter of the alphabet. The group finding the most wins.
2. **Back to Back:** Gather items such as rocks, sticks, or leaves. At the end of your hike, pair up and stand back to back. One person describes an item to their partner. The partner guesses what the item is.
3. **Color Swatches:** Cut small squares of construction paper or pick up paint chip samples. Use your color swatches to try to find something in nature to match. Variation: Crayon Hike: Select 3 or more crayons from a box. Take a hike and try to find as many things that match the color of the crayons as possible.
4. **Drippy Walk:** Take a walk during a rain and explore different smells, colors, and tastes. Look for animals that like the rain and places where soil is eroding. Discuss ideas on how to prevent soil from eroding. Catch a "drop" of rainwater in your hands and taste it. Walk along with your tongue stuck out to get a taste.
5. **Egg Carton Walk:** Give each person an egg carton to carry during the walk. In the bottom of each egg cup, have a description (i.e. hard, smooth, rough, etc.). Collect items along the way, then compare at the end.
6. **Friends:** On your hike, find a leaf, a rock, a stick or a pinecone--something that can be your nature friend. Share why you chose your object to be your friend.
7. **Gathering Hike:** Gather items you find on the ground. When you get back from your hike, glue the items to paper to make a collage.
8. **Monogram Walk:** On a hike have each person in your group see, hear, touch or smell objects that begin with the initials of his/her name.
9. **Nature Art Walk:** Take crayons and paper for each of you. Decide on a destination and upon arrival pass out paper and crayons and draw what you see. When you get back, have an art exhibit.
10. **Onion Hike:** You will need some onions and divide up into two groups. One group rubs onions on trees to indicate the trail for another group. The second group follows the trail by sniffing around!
11. **Pass It Back:** On a hike, the leader picks up several objects. Objects are then passed back down the line of hikers for all to see. The last person then places the object on the ground.
12. **Quarter Hike:** Give each person a quarter. Have them go on a hike and find items that will fit on a quarter. Remind them not pick anything that is alive.
13. **Right and Left Earful:** Make a fist with each hand. Right hand will count sounds of nature; left hand will count sounds made by mankind. Talk about the sounds you might hear. Then, with silence, have everyone in your group listen and count. Share what you've heard.
14. **String Nature Hike:** Divide into pairs. Give each pair a piece of string 6 to 8 inches long. Take turns tossing the string to the ground and taking your partner on a tour along the string.
15. **Treasure Hunt:** Using paper and pencils, make a list of things to see. Send two patrols off in opposite directions to see which can find them all first.
16. **Unusual Object Walk:** Collect unusual objects during the walk. At the end, compare objects - anything that is the same as what someone else has is disqualified. The most unusual objects win!