

# Alphabet in Nature Game

## Discover Letters Made by Nature

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Have students search for letters formed by Nature and have them photograph them. Look specifically for curves (vines, Spanish moss, bean tendrils), straight lines or a combination of the two. The most effective way is to look closely and from up close (use the close-up or macro setting). It takes patient and continuous observation to be effective.

- Reflections give a symmetrical image
- Ice can give surprising patterns.
- Sycamore bark shed in the spring and early summer is excellent.
- Branches and leaf veins are great for E, F, L, V, and Y
- Leaf edges in close-up can be used to find the letters M, N, U, V and W
- The most difficult letters seem to be G, Q and R

A challenge for students might be to give relative point values to letters found in Nature. Below is a point scale that you might use in the classroom to have a classroom competition to see who can accumulate the most points:

<b>A</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>7</b>

Alternately, this could also include lower case letters making it somewhat harder. A new relative point scale should be used in that case.

### Letters in Nature Forest View lesson

1. Show photos of letters in Nature. Have students identify them. Make sure they are in unusual positions to make the students mentally re-form the image to the letter intended.
2. Transition to directions for the activity
  - a. Time frame (10 minutes)
  - b. no running
  - c. draw photo/object on paper (do not remove photo/object)
  - d. find at least 3 (one being a vowel) -encourage to find more
  - e. cooperative groups of 3
  - f. think about what words can be made using the letters you find
3. Hide photos of natural letters inside/outside (or actual letters formed by nature) depending on weather. Make sure vowels and consonants are used so that words can be formed.
4. Students search for the letters for a specified period of time (define # of vowels and consonants needed???) then return to original location.
5. Review letters found. Make words from the letters found (camera projector?)

Alternative – have students find the letters that make up their name on a nature walk.