

Look and Listen Scavenger Hunt - Autumn

UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Welcome to the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden, a 63-acre living museum teeming with life. See what you can discover by answering the questions below! As you look and listen for the sights and sounds of nature, we ask that you are careful not to damage plants and do not collect or remove anything from the arboretum. Have fun!

1. **Can you find three different types of fruit? Why do you think they look the way they do?**

A fruit forms after a flower has been pollinated. There are many different types of fruit. They may be **dry**, like the nut of an oak tree or a samara of a maple, or **fleshy**, like the pome of a crabapple. Fruits are used to disperse the **seeds they contain** away from the parent plant. Some, like the dandelion, have special features that allow them to travel by wind. Others make their way to suitable **germination** sites by traveling on or in animals. Fruits are attractive to animals by being nutritious or having features that allow them to stick to the animal's body.

2. Many of the trees shed their leaves for the winter. Before the leaves fall from the tree they turn from green to various shades of yellow, orange, red, or even purple. **Can you find three different color leaves? How about a single leaf with three different colors?**

Unlike **evergreen** trees, which keep their foliage year round, **deciduous** trees lose their leaves during the winter as an adaptation to the cold. During the short, dry, cold days of autumn, deciduous trees decrease the amount of green **chlorophyll** produced, which means other pigments present in the leaf become noticeable. The yellow, brown, and orange colors are due to **carotenoids** while the reds and purple are the result of **anthocyanin** pigments produced by the tree in late summer.

3. **How would you describe the weather today? Can you spot three signs that animals are getting ready for winter?**

The weather is changing and the year-round resident animals are preparing for the upcoming cold winter months. Squirrels and other small rodents are storing food. Amphibians like toads and frogs are burying themselves in the mud to protect themselves from the cold.