



Winter **urbaNature** Scavenger Hunt

éducation

Before you go...

Install a couple of apps on your phone to help you with identifying trees and birds.

Branché is an app that helps you to identify trees, and allows you to geolocate the ones you identify, putting them on a map for other users to find!

Merlin Bird ID is a great app for beginner birders, and will allow you to identify the most common birds for your area, and listen to their songs and calls.

Take this list, get your woollies on, and head out for a walk around the neighborhood. You don't have to go to a park, but if there is one within walking distance, why not bring a thermos of hot chocolate and have a picnic once you get there?

- Animal tracks** in the snow... what could they be?
- Can you find or see a place where an **animal might live**?
- Find a **coniferous tree** (a tree that produces cones – usually evergreen!) What kind of tree is it? Try identifying it using the Branché app or a tree book.
- Can you find a **pinecone**? What IS a pinecone, anyway??
- A fruit** – sometimes, berries and nuts are still visible on trees and shrubs in the winter
- How many different kinds of **birds** do you see? In the winter, some common birds are crows, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and of course... Pigeons! Use the Merlin Bird ID app to help you identify the birds you see and hear!
- In the morning, listen for **bird song**, especially as the spring draws near. You might hear cardinals, jays, crows, chickadees and woodpeckers.
- Where is the **sun**? In the south, east, west?
- Can you see the **moon**?
- What are the **squirrels** up to? Do they walk headfirst or tailfirst when coming down?
- If it's snowing, try to **catch a snowflake** and examine it before it melts
- Do any branches have **buds** on the tips of their branches?
- Can you find a **leaf** that hung on to its tree all winter?
- Say hello to a **neighbor** – They're part of Nature, too – And so are you!
- Can you make a **snowball**? Why does it or doesn't it work? What does the snow feel like? What do the individual flakes look like?
- What other Nature items did you find on your walk?