

Tickly Prickly

Explore the diversity of nature with this fun, hands-on activity.

Time: 10 – 15 minutes

Ages: 5 and up

Materials Required: Descriptive words related to texture/touch (provided or create your own), egg cartons or containers (optional)

Nature-Friendly Park Experience: Help keep people, wildlife and habitat healthy.

Stay on designated trails at all times. Walking off trails can damage small plants and tree roots.

Admire berries, leaves and flowers without picking them. Animals use them for food and to make homes.

Everything in the park must stay in the park. All things found in nature have a role to play.

This activity can be done individually or in pairs. Working in pairs encourages participants to work cooperatively and makes the activity last longer.

Create a list of simple descriptive words related to touch and textures that a person may experience in the park (e.g. rough, smooth, wet, dry, solid, crumbly, tickly, prickly). Alternatively, you can use the words provided.

Give each person or pair one of the descriptive words. Either whisper this word in their ear or give them the word on a piece of paper. Depending on the ages, you may need to read the piece of paper for them. Ask each person to search for objects that match their descriptive word. The objects must be on the ground and not living/attached to anything.

This activity can be used two different ways:

1. Search for 4 to 6 items that match the descriptive word and place them in an egg carton or other container, or lay them out on the ground. Once the collection is complete, trade with someone else. With eyes closed and through touch and feel only (no peeking!), guess the descriptive word.
2. Find one item that matches the descriptive word, and then get a new word. Hide found items in a special place. At the end of the activity, pick a favourite found object and share it with the rest of the group.

Finish the activity by returning all of the objects to the forest in the same spot they were found as best you can.

THIS IS A SLIGHT VARIATION OF 'A DOZEN TOUCHES' IN THE 'EARTH MAGIC' BOOKLET BY KIRK HOESSLE AND STEVE VAN MATRE.



Find objects that these words describe.

Optional: Put the word on one side of an egg carton and your object on the other side.

LONG	LONG	SHORT	SHORT
ROUGH	ROUGH	SMOOTH	SMOOTH
DRY	DRY	WET	WET
DARK	DARK	LIGHT	LIGHT
SOFT	SOFT	HARD	HARD
FLAT	FLAT	POINTY	POINTY
YOUNG	YOUNG	OLD	OLD
THICK	THICK	THIN	THIN
CURVY	CURVY	STRAIGHT	STRAIGHT
UNUSUAL	UNUSUAL	COMMON	COMMON
FRESH	FRESH	ROTTING	ROTTING
BROWN	BROWN	GREEN	GREEN
TINY	TINY	BIG	BIG
SOLID	SOLID	CRUMBLY	CRUMBLY
SMELLY	SMELLY	NOT SMELLY	NOT SMELLY
TICKLY	TICKLY	PRICKLY	PRICKLY
LONG	LONG	SHORT	SHORT
ROUGH	ROUGH	SMOOTH	SMOOTH
DRY	DRY	WET	WET
DARK	DARK	LIGHT	LIGHT