

## A Wild Scavenger Hunt: Find these things in your forest!



### Blue Stain Fungus

Blue stain fungus is a mushroom that works on the inside of trees, staining wood a light blue-green color. It doesn't often look like a normal mushroom, it's so small that it looks only like blue wood. It is most often seen on decayed logs when you pull off the bark, but it can be hard to find.



### Garlic Mustard

This pesky invasive is very commonly seen in woodlands, and it spreads aggressively, smothering the diverse and beneficial native plants that normally grown on the forest floor. It's important to know how to identify this plant so that you can remove it when you see it, so study the picture and look for the white flowers, vertical seed pods, or the round serrations on the heart-shaped leaf.



### Artist's Conk

These mushrooms usually grow on dead and downed logs that lie on the forest floor. They grow out horizontally like a round shelf, the top is brown and woody and the underside is pure white when fresh and covered in circular pores. These are not edible mushrooms, but the underside can be written on as it bruises dark brown under pressure. If you choose to harvest these mushrooms, make sure to leave some so they can reproduce and make more.



### Poison Ivy

"Leaves of three let it be" You have probably heard this phrase, and it's an important one. Poison ivy can lie low among grass or hide around the bases of trees, it is important to know how to identify it so it can be avoided. Look for a bundle of three glossy leaves with rounded toothed edges. Poison ivy produces an oil on the surface of the leaf that will burn human skin, so be careful not to get it on your hands or clothing.



### Baby Oak Tree

These small seedlings can look like a pair of mini oak leaves resting just off the ground, and they might be hard to find, because deer like to eat them. When baby trees grow up in a forest it's called regeneration, and it's important for the health of a forest because the younger trees grow to replace older ones. You might find oak tree seedlings in a red pine plantation if there's one nearby.