

OUTDOORS ✿ GRADES 4-6 ✿ FALL, SPRING ✿ ACTIVITY



# Burma Shave Hike

In the 1920s through the 1960s, the Burma Shave company created an advertising campaign using a series of roadside billboards with rhyming jingles. This "hike" uses the Burma Shave model to guide students through the garden.

## DESCRIPTION

In this self-guided, cooperative group activity, students carry out instructions and answer questions that are written on 3"x5" cards at different locations in the garden.

## OBJECTIVE

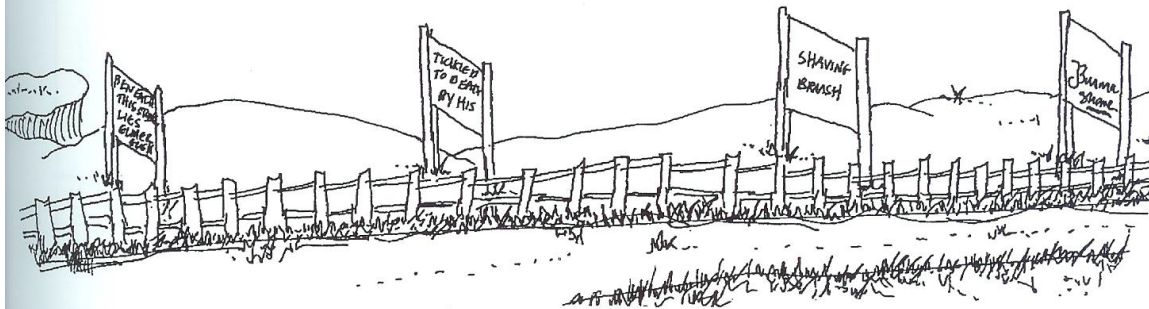
To develop awareness and observation skills.

## MATERIALS

✿ 3"x5" cards

## PREPARATION

- Prepare 3"x5" cards with challenging instructions and questions such as the following:
  - ✿ Listen for three human-made sounds.
  - ✿ Listen for three sounds not made by humans.
  - ✿ Look for three different animal homes. Who lives in them?
  - ✿ Hot and thirsty? Find a drop of water.
  - ✿ Should we build a restaurant here so that you can buy lunch? How would a restaurant change this place?
  - ✿ Smell five things before going to the next card.
  - ✿ Run to the next card.
  - ✿ Who do you think lives in this hole?
  - ✿ Use your hand to find something that feels cooler than your skin.
  - ✿ Find a seed.
  - ✿ What do you think was here 50 years ago?
  - ✿ Find something that feels rough.
  - ✿ Feel this.
- Scout a particular area of the schoolyard or garden for your card trail. Place the cards along the trail in advance or as the first group progresses through the activity. Make sure each card can be seen from the location of the preceding card. Lay out arrow cards, if desired, to cover large gaps between instructional cards. Use pebbles or rocks to keep cards from blowing away in the wind.



**CLASS  
DISCUSSION**

What do you use to make observations? (*senses*) How do you help your senses tune in to specific observations? Do you have ways that help you focus? We're going to go on a walk that you've been on lots of times. This time, though, you will find cards along the way. When your group gets to a card, I want one person to read what it says out loud, and each person in the group to follow the instructions or answer the question on the card. Then one person will record the group response. Do you think the cards will help you be better observers?

**ACTION**

1. Divide the class into groups of four. Assign one person in each group to be the reader, another the recorder. Encourage students to discuss each card with their group.
2. Lead the groups to the beginning of the card trail. Students should remain at least 20 steps from the group in front of them.
3. Ask the last group to pick up the cards.
4. When everyone has finished, review the cards with the students. Once the students have learned how to use a card hike, you can repeat the technique regularly with different cards and/or a different focus.

**WRAP UP**

What are some new things you found out about this area? What senses did you use? What would it have been like to do this activity without your sense of hearing? Sight? Touch?