

Record your answers here.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Try this.



Go for a nature walk and look for a bird nest. They are easier to spot when all of the leaves have fallen off of the trees. As you walk around, count how many you find. Do you think birds use their nests in the winter? Why or why not?

# KID QUEST TREE DEBRIS



## Finding Nature's Treasures

When colorful leaves have disappeared, it is more difficult to distinguish one tree from another. Instead of looking up into the branches, try looking down on the ground. Many trees give clues to their identities in the seeds, bark and leaves scattered at the base of the trunk. Learn how to recognize some of these clues in this edition of Kid Quest.

# KID QUEST



## HEMLOCK TREE

Stroll down the Main Garden Walkway and cross the Lotus Bridge. Instead of turning left into the Children's Garden, turn right and continue down the asphalt path until you find a large evergreen tree at the edge of the forest. Look on the ground for its small seed cones.

**1. Open a cone from the ground. Describe it on the back of this sheet.**

## SWEET GUM TREE

Look around the edge of the forest to find a tall tree with a trunk that divides near the base. Search the ground to find one of its round spiky seed pods. Look closely. Two tiny winged seeds emerged from each hole. Based on the number of holes, about how many seeds do you think were released?

**2. Write how many seeds you think it released on the back of this sheet.**



## HICKORY TREE

Continue looking along the edge of the woods until you find a tall, straight tree with branches fairly low to the ground. This tree dropped seeds that are protected by an outer husk and inner shell. Can you find examples of both the husk and the shell on the ground? The husk can split into four pieces.

**3. Write the difference between the husk and shell on the back of this sheet.**



## RED CEDAR TREE

Look back towards the lawn to find an evergreen tree with waxy leaves and shaggy bark. Many trees shed their bark as they grow. Outer layers are replaced by new bark underneath when the trunk's diameter expands. Find a piece of bark on the ground. How does it feel?

**4. Describe how the bark feels on the back of this sheet.**

## OAK TREE

Make your way back to the edge of the woods and walk towards the Lace House Gazebo until you come to a path leading into the forest. Look along the path to find familiar oval seeds, which often lose their caps as they fall to the ground. Lots of wildlife enjoy eating acorns.

**5. Write what animals you think eat acorns on the back of this sheet.**



## TULIP TREE

Now look towards the Lace House Gazebo to find a large tree with twisted, low-hanging branches. This tree gets its common name from the shape of its leaves, which resemble tulip flowers. As its seed cones break apart, they spread small, paper-thin seeds, called samaras across the ground.

**6. Write how many samaras you can find on back of this sheet.**