

LONGLEAF TRACE PRESERVE NATURAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Hints:

- Quickly read through the scavenger hunt before beginning so that you know what you're looking for.
- You may want to split up the work with a classmate or two- you look for one thing and they look for something else- then share it with each other.
- Look up, look down, look around. This experience is about observation, so keep looking around you.
- This is a NATURAL Scavenger Hunt. This means we are looking for things in nature, but not taking them with us, as in regular Scavenger Hunts.

North of the Trace adjacent to the parking lot is a large area with small pine trees and exposed red dirt. This is an example of which type of **ecological succession**? (Hint: this area used to be a factory that used chemicals to preserve longleaf pine logs for use as telephone poles. The land was contaminated by the chemicals and the topsoil was removed to dispose of much of the **pollution**.)

Name as many examples of **anthropogenic** (human) **disturbance** that affect the land next to the Longleaf Trace (this includes anything manmade).

Name as many examples of natural **disturbance** that affect the land next to the Longleaf Trace. Think about the effects of weather (wind, water), plants, and animals.

Find a pine tree. Which **species** do you think it is: longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) or loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*)? (Hint: the needles on the bottom of a longleaf pine are about 3 palm-lengths long)

Name 3 animals that could all live in this tree at the same time and get along. In other words, think about the **food chain**, too.

Find the burn marks on some of the larger trees along the trail. Why are they there?

Burning in the longleaf pine forest creates a lot of smoke- remember the pine straw we burned at school? Who might be affected by smoke from prescribed burning at the Thoreau Center?

LONGLEAF TRACE PRESERVE NATURAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Find and draw 3 different insects. Remember: an insect has 6 legs, while a spider has eight. Also, remember the rule about no killing of any animals at Lake Thoreau.

Signs of wildlife are evidence that an animal is or has been in that location before you. Find at least 2 signs of wildlife and draw them below. One example is a footprint. What others can you name? (Remember: LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN, LOOK AROUND!)

Find a fungus and write a short poem about it. Is a fungus a **producer**, **consumer**, or **decomposer**? (Circle your answer) You can make up your own poem or can use the outline below.

Noun

Verb Verb

Adjective Adjective Adjective

Noun Noun

Verb

Find and trace the outline of a leaf that is palmate (hand-shaped). It does not have to fit in this space. In other words, it is okay if your leaf outline overlaps to other questions on this sheet.

Find a flower in bloom. Is it an example of **sexual** or **asexual** reproduction? (Circle your answer) Pretend you are a scientist and you have discovered this plant for the first time. No one else has ever seen it. What would you name it?

Is there more **canopy** cover on the trails where you are walking or off the trails (in the woods)? (Circle your answer) Name two animals that would like to live where there is more canopy cover?

The **understory** of the longleaf pine forest has high **biodiversity** and some scientists refer to it as an **ecological hot spot**. How many different plant species can you count?