

Group member names: _____

WINTER IS COMING!!!

Like all creatures in the forest, we must prepare for this cold and difficult season together.

Your challenge is to do your best on this fall scavenger hunt, collecting as many points as possible for your group. Good luck!

- Bears look for a den that is safe, cozy and far from people. **Try to find a possible den site (4 points).**
- Squirrels store pine and spruce cones in their nests, and come outside to eat, leaving a pile of litter behind. **Try to find a squirrel midden (5 points).**
- To store mushrooms in their nests, squirrels will dry them on tree branches first. **Find a mushroom drying on the branch (3 points).**
- Cone seeds are important winter food to many small mammals. **Gather as many cones as you can (4 cones = 1 point. 2 bonus points if you can ID the cone).**
- Rosehips are the fruit of wild rose bushes – they are round red berries on prickly bushes. They have lots of vitamin C and are great for winter teas. **Collect a bunch of rosehips for drying (5 rosehips = 1 point).**
- To eat delicious and healthy berries in the winter, people can dry or make berry jam in the fall. **Find and identify some wild berries (1 berry = 1 point)**
- Hot tea helps us stay warm in the winter – ‘muskeg’ or ‘Labrador’ tea is a wild plant with many health benefits. **Collect some muskeg tea (3 points).**
- Before gas and electricity, all people in this area used to heat their homes with wood. **Collect a pile of firewood for lunch, including some bigger and smaller sticks (4 points).**
- Many birds leave this area and fly south for the winter after the breeding season. **Find an old bird’s nest (4 points).**
- Being able to find and identify animal tracks is a key hunting skill when trying to fill our freezers for the winter. **Find and identify an animal track (5 pts).**
- Find and collect a branch of these local tree species
 - White Spruce (1 point)
 - Lodgepole Pine (1 point)
 - Trembling Aspen (1 point)
- Caribou need lichen to survive the winter. **Find different lichen species (2 pts).**
- Making art is a good way to spend cold winter months. **Gather 3 bundles of interesting twigs for arts and crafts at the school (6 points).**