Post-Site Activity
School Nature Detectives

Grade Level:
Kindergarten

Subject Area: Science

Activity time:
As time allows

Setting: Indoors

Skills: Observing, communicating, comparing, experimenting, presenting, collecting information

Vocabulary:
- Magnifying lens a polished plastic or glass lens that helps you see small things.
- Inventory: The process of counting and listing things in an area.

Objectives:
1) conduct a school yard inventory.
2) compare and contrast their school yard findings with those from the National Park.
3) use a magnifying glass to see small objects without damaging them.

Materials:
- magnifying glasses for each student
- inventory list
- trash bags

Procedure:
Just as many exciting discoveries were made during the class trip to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, there are many places to explore within your school yard. Allow students to use their magnifying glasses back at school to make an inventory list just like the one in the national park.

Once completed, ask students if the list looked longer or shorter. Were any of the same types of items found? Why or why not.? Is your school yard bigger or smaller than the national park (the park is 500,000 acres).

While visiting Great Smoky Mountains National Park, students heard from park rangers and from the "Talking Barn" about the importance of keeping the forest clean of trash. When people visit special places like national parks, they should be sure to pack out all of their trash and garbage.

Schools are also special places that should be kept clean. As a service learning opportunity, are there places within your school that students could help to clean up? Any trash on the school grounds? Litter in the halls? Find an opportunity for stewardship and encourage students to keep their school clean.