Tree Scavenger Hunt

The Adventure:
How well do you know the trees where you live? On your own or in pairs, take some time in nature to collect souvenirs of the trees you can name. You might collect an acorn and share that you know it came from an oak tree, and a maple key can represent a maple tree. But do you know the difference between a cone from a white pine and a cone from a white spruce? Leave living trees be. Taking leaves, bark or seeds from living trees isn’t good for them. Be sure to leave the things you collect where you are before heading home after your adventure. Identify as many trees as you can! Who can name the most?

Plan:
- Where will you share this adventure?
- How can you leave no trace on this scavenger hunt?
- How will you identify different kinds of cones, seeds, leaves, twigs and bark?

Do:
- Have a fun scavenger hunt!

Review:
- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- What was your favourite part of this adventure?
- How did you leave no trace on this adventure?
- Why is it important to leave no trace when playing games like this one?
- What surprised you?

Online Resources:
- Looking at Leaves
- Leave No Trace
- Learning to Recognize the Trees of British Columbia
- Tracking the Trees and Shrubs of Kananaskis Country
- Ontario Tree Atlas

Safety Note:
- Look out for dangerous plants and insects while on your scavenger hunt. Which ones do you need to look out for in your part of the country?
- Do not eat nuts or berries if you aren’t sure they’re safe. Check with a Scouter first.