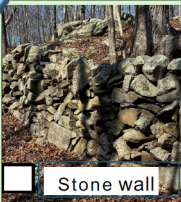
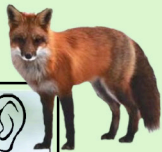


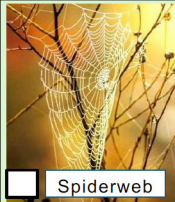
Spring Has Sprung Scavenger Hunt



Stone wall



Acorn



Spiderweb



Robin



Trail marker



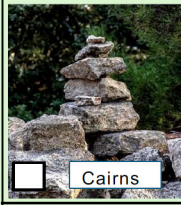
Tree Bark



Fiddlehead



Stream



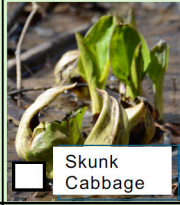
Cairns



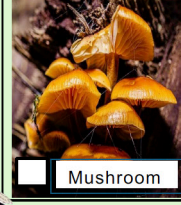
Kiosk



Blue Jay



Skunk Cabbage



Mushroom



Bridge




Pinecones



Lichen

Instructions:

- Take a walk in one of our preserves.
 - Look and Listen  for the pictured items.
 - When you complete your hunt, bring to the Essex Library or the Ivoryton Library for your prize.
- ***Images are representative; Your match may look a bit different.



Essex Land Trust

Caring for our world here at home

Things to know about our woodlands:

STONE WALLS off ELT trails are preserved remnants of old walls between fields, pastures, and farms. Some date as far back as the 1840's. Old growth trees had been cut down homes, so farmers used field stones left by the glaciers to create walls.

ACORNS come from oak trees. Depending on the type of oak, they can take six to 24 months to mature and drop. They're bitter for people to eat, but many animals eat acorns.

SPIDERWEBS are a thin, but strong, sticky net that spiders make from silk to trap their prey. Spiders make the silk from glands located at the tip of their abdomen.

ROBINS are found in yards, gardens, woodlands, and pine forests. They land by flicking their tails downward several times. They sound like 10 clear whistles repeating - cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up.

TRAIL MARKERS help you follow a trail. They can be circular colored markers or painted rectangles (blazes) just above eye level on trees. They tell you the trail you are on, the beginning and end of a trail, a change of direction, or an intersection. Double markers or a double blaze with different colors means you are hiking on 2 trails that overlap.

BARK protects trees from animals, disease, and extreme temperatures. Use your eyes and hands to see the color and feel the texture and pattern of bark to help identify a tree. See the white birch tree bark's whitish color, dark horizontal streaks, and paper-like texture. Compare that to the light gray, furrowed bark of an oak tree.

FIDDLEHEADS are the curled shoots of the ostrich fern. They are near streams and moist, forested areas. Fiddleheads are not safe to eat raw, but are safe (and delicious) cooked.

STREAMS are the lifeblood of our forests. They provide nurturing water for trees and plants and are a home to insects, salamanders, and other tiny creatures.

CAIRNS are stacked rocks erected as a trail marker or landmark. Look for them on ELT trails, but please do not build them.

TRAILHEAD KIOSKS at the beginning of each ELT trail provide trail maps, safety information and ELT updates. Check them before you start your adventure!

BLUE JAYS really have dull brown feathers with prismatic cells that scatter light, so they appear blue. They are known for their tight family bonds and found in pairs, family groups, or small flocks. Listen for their call, a loud jeer which is frequently a warning.

SKUNK CABBAGE heats itself hotter than the air to melt snow and warm icy soil to sprout. Its name comes from its foul-smelling aroma. Ok to touch, its leaves burn the mouth.

MUSHROOMS are a fungus. Most mushrooms sold in stores have been grown on mushroom farms. Wild mushroom can be poisonous and fatal even though they may look like an edible mushroom. Do not eat mushrooms found on a trail.

BRIDGES are found on several ELT trails. The largest ELT bridge spans the 7.7 mile Falls River.

PINE CONES protect conifer seeds. They close their scales to protect the seeds from cold weather, high wind, and animals. They open and release the seeds when it is warm so a new pine tree sprouts.

LICHEN are not plants. They are a partnership of fungus and alga. Lichen is often pale gray or white. (Don't confuse them with moss which is a green plant.)

