

Heirloom Scavenger Hunt

Duration: 30 min – 1 hour

Suggested Age: 4 – 12

Supplies:

- Family heirloom objects or special objects from around your house
- Scratch paper
- Pencils

Steps:

- Watch the Village Garden video to understand what heirloom plants are and how they are important.
- Gather objects from around your house that are special to you and your family. Heirloom objects are preferred but you can use anything!
- Give each object a history that explains where it comes from and why it's important to you, like the stories in the video.
- Hide the objects around your house or outside for a scavenger hunt. Make sure to remember where you hide them. You may need a grown-up to help you.
- Make a list of each object. Include its description and location.
- Have your family look for the objects! You can hide them as easy or as hard as you want.
- As your family finds the items you can tell them the history of each item!
- Everyone in your family can take turns hiding their heirloom items and telling why each one is important to them.

Fun Facts:

- Heirlooms often have a rich history that comes with them.
- Heirloom seeds have been preserved from generation to generation, just like the heirloom objects you hid.
- Some families have preserved their seeds for hundreds of years.

- Saving seeds mattered a lot to early farmers, it set them apart from other farmers. Their seeds and plant varieties were unique to their family's name.

Explore Further:

- Heirloom plants come with stories. What are some stories you have about your heirlooms?
- Heirloom plants help to preserve biodiversity by saving different varieties of plants.
 - Visit <https://www.seedsavers.org/> for more information about heirloom plants and biodiversity.
- What is the difference between heirloom plants and hybrid plants?
 - Visit <https://blog.seedsavers.org/blog/open-pollinated-heirloom-and-hybrid-seeds> to find out!
- Do you want to learn how to save seeds to grow your own heirloom garden?
 - <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-how-to-heirloom-seed-saving/> for tips on which seeds to save!

Definitions:

- Heirloom (for people): a valuable object that has belonged to a family for several generations.
- History: a story of the past that explains what happened, when it happened, who was involved, and why it's important.
- Preserve: maintain something in its original state.
- Heirloom plants: a variety of plant that has been passed down for generations.
- Open pollination: pollination that occurs naturally by birds, wind, or insects.
- Hybrid plants: plants that are produced through human intervention in pollination.
- Biodiversity: variety of life; preserving biodiversity means saving the differences between people and things.