

Leave No Trace Principle 4 Leave What You Find

Name: _____

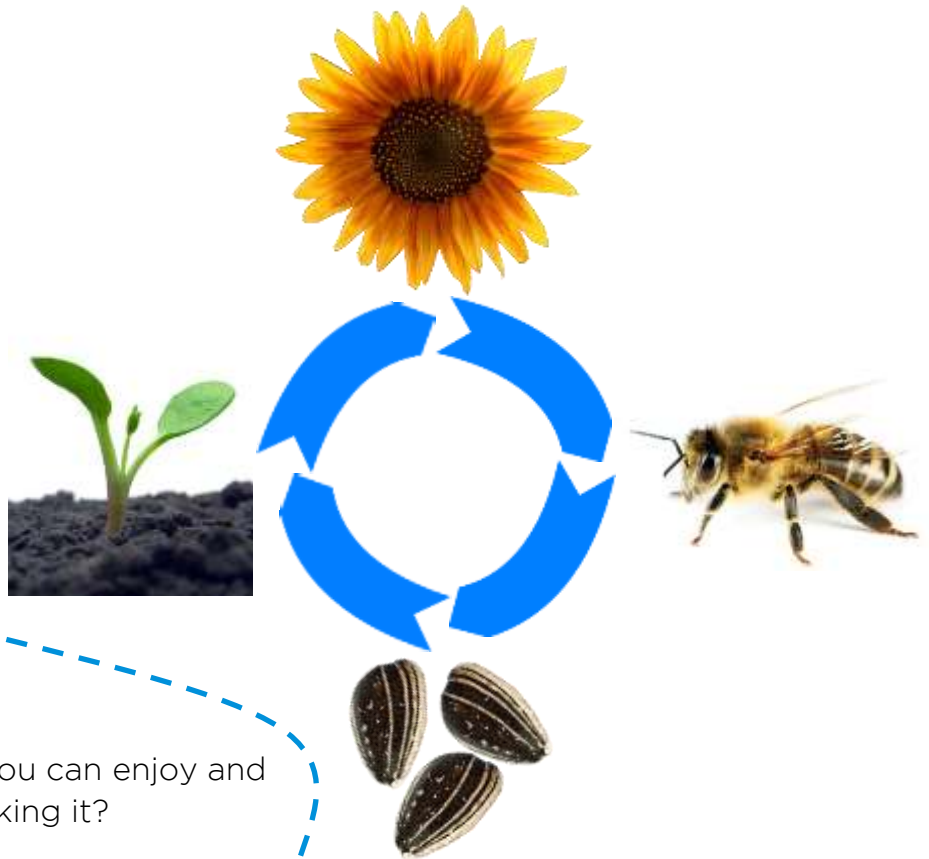
Your journey to becoming an environmental steward continues here! Follow the Tahoe Rim Trail through the 7 Leave No Trace (LNT) Principles to develop outdoor ethics and earn your Leave No Trace Awareness certificate! Now stay on trail to learn LNT Principle 4 - Leave What You Find.



When you are in the wilderness, whether you are in a field of wildflowers or at a sandy beach, it's important to leave the area 'untouched'—as if you were never there. Before you pick that beautiful flower or take that seashell home, think about why you should leave what you find instead!

THINK: You see a beautiful wildflower on the side of the trail. Why shouldn't you pick it?

HINT: That flower is part of an ecosystem. It provides food and protection for animals and insects. It also reproduces to create more beautiful flowers! The diagram to the right shows how pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds fertilize flowers, which allows them to produce seeds and grow more flowers!



Answer This! What is one way you can enjoy and remember a wildflower without taking it?

Leaving Lessons Behind

When you leave nature how you found it, you are helping to preserve the natural history. If you find the following things in nature, leave them! They all have a story...

Dinosaurs, Bones, and Fossils, Oh My!

These 'artifacts' or old natural objects provide information about the wildlife in an area long ago. It is important to leave these artifacts as they are found because each little piece is a clue to history and you don't want to ruin the evidence! **HINT:** The picture to the right shows fossilized vertebrae and ribs from a dinosaur, the Ichthyosaur, which populated the Great Basin 225 million years ago! Click the picture to learn more!



Art of the Native Americans. You may have heard of 'petroglyphs' or drawings carved into rocks. While you might think they don't look like much, they are an ancient form of art and storytelling! These carvings provide information about the way of life for Native Americans. **HINT:** The petroglyphs to the right are from the Martis Tribe and you can find them at Donner Pass in the Tahoe region! Click the picture to find out more!



A Hole New Meaning. When you are out exploring Tahoe, you may have noticed these holes on top of granite and limestone rocks. Well they are no ordinary holes, they are mortar holes created by Native Americans. These rocks, also known as 'grinding rocks' were used to grind down acorns and pine nuts into flour for cooking. If you find one, admire it and leave it because it is a piece of history from Native American life. **HINT:** The mortar holes to the right are preserved at Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. Click the picture for more information!



Take Photos, Not Things!

Discover these beautiful pieces of nature, without disrupting them!

Here's the game – You are going to play BINGO, but not like ever before. The BINGO card below shows different things that you can find out in nature. All you need is a camera and to explore outside. The catch is... you cannot take these things. You must snap a photo of each item you can find on the bingo card in its natural state—this means leave it how you found it! Find 5 in a row and you get a BINGO!

THINK: How can you follow other Leave No Trace principles that you've learned while looking for these natural things?

HINT: Plan ahead by deciding where you are going and knowing how to get back, prepare by packing items you will need such as your camera or phone, always stay on durable surfaces, and pack out anything you bring including trash, food, or human waste!

				
 FLOWER	 ACORN	 GREEN LEAF	 ROOTS	 ROCK
 SAND	 STEM	 SPIDERWEB	 PINE NEEDLE	 BARK
 GRASS	 BEAVER DAM	 TAHOE RIM TRAIL ASSOCIATION	 TREE	 DIRT
 BERRIES	 MUSHROOM	 BRANCH	 DOWN LOG	 COCOON
 BUSH	 PINECONE	 BIRD'S NEST	 DEAD LEAF	 STICK

Photos For Reflection

Now gather your photos from BINGO and let's reflect!

1. Check the box next to each object on the BINGO card on page 3 that you were able to find. What items were you able to find and snap a photo of?
2. What other Leave No Trace principles that you've learned so far did you use while doing the BINGO activity? Explain how you used them.
3. What are some ways you can enjoy and remember nature without taking anything from it?



4. Why is it important to leave natural things that are dead or non-living?

5. Why do you think it's important to leave what you find?

HINT: All pieces of nature are there for a reason—they are a part of the ecosystem! Seashells are homes to crabs, snails, and algae, and they provide materials for birds' nests. Think about this next time you find a shell at the beach. Don't be that guy →



"Hey—you can actually hear the ocean better if you put the shell down."

*You did it! After filling out this worksheet, **leave it** and get ready to trek on to the next Leave No Trace principle! Keep an eye out on our [webpage](#) for the next worksheet.*

Take one step closer to earning your Leave No Trace Awareness certificate by sending this worksheet and the pictures of the BINGO items you were able to find to juliak@tahoerimtrail.org. Further your impact by supporting the TRTA's mission to [inspire stewardship](#).

