Step Outdoors

Hunting for Sheds
Level 1

OBJECTIVE
To locate antler sheds from a White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer or an Elk.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
Good shoes.

DISCUSSION
Antlered animals lose their antlers during the winter to conserve energy and to make sure that nutrients taken from food go towards the health of the animal. Shed antlers are a great way to see if bucks survived the hunting season and to determine areas with high concentrations of animals.

ACTIVITY
Go for long walks with a friend covering areas where deer spend time in late December and early January. The antlers naturally are shed from the animal during the New Year when the rut or mating season is all but completed. Look for the sheds in areas where deer go to feed or along trails leading to these places.

EXTENSION
Using the sheds you can make lots of handy items including candle holders, buttons, knife handles and decorations. See the next chapter on Antler Crafts for some project ideas.

Time: 1.25 hours
Intro: 10 min
Activity: 60 min
Discussion and Review: 5 min

Safety
Poison Ivy
Wildlife

NOTES