



Eco-I-Spy



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The Summer Alpine environment is a paradise of nature: wherever you turn, you are sure to see some interesting plants or animals. Wherever you go, you are sure to see something amazing during your stay.

Aims

To achieve a greater understanding of the environment surrounding us in Kandersteg

Objectives

See as many different plants, animals, and points of interest, as possible.

For everything you spot, you get some points. The harder it is to see, the more points you will get! **If you get 50 points+, you have got one of the requirements for the Eco and KISC Challenge badges!**

Equipment List

Pen
This booklet!



Geography

HANGING VALLEY

Carved out by glaciers and melt water, you will see these entering a larger valley quite high up.



3 POINTS

FOLDED ROCK

Created when the African continent crashed into Europe 50 million years ago, making folds with the pressure.



2 POINTS

GLACIAL LAKE

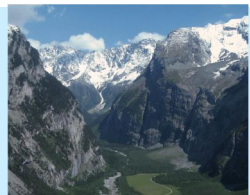
Either found on the valley floor or up in the mountains. Usually a bright blue colour due to glacial melt water in them.



3 POINTS

GLACIAL VALLEY

Carved out by glaciers, a glacial valley is U shaped. Look out for a wide, flat valley floor and steep valley sides.



5 POINTS

MOUNTAIN HUT



2 POINTS

CABLE CAR



3 POINTS

HANGING GLACIER

Found clinging to the sides of mountains. Very dangerous due to the high risk of ice fall from them.



5 POINTS

AVALANCHE BARRIER

Protect the people in the valley from snow avalanches by holding back the snow. Think about where you would expect to find them...



5 POINTS

SNOW

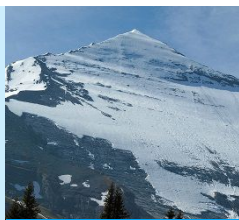
In Winter KISC is covered in snow, but many high Alpine passes have snow in Summer. Can you find any?



5 POINTS

ALTELS

Once the tallest mountain here, in 1895 the biggest avalanche in Switzerland occurred, taking a lot of Altels with it, as you can see.



4 POINTS

VALLEY GLACIER

A valley full of glacial ice with deep crevasses and rock piles known as moraines. These are often hidden in snow.



8 POINTS



Kandersteg
International
Scout Centre

Animals

ALPINE SALAMANDER

A small, jet-black amphibian, which lives only on land. It moves only around 10m per year! Look for it on rainy days.



5 POINTS

MARMOT

A social mammal, living in big family groups. One looks for danger when others feed, and whistles when danger is near!



5 POINTS

BEARDED VULTURE

The biggest bird in CH, with a wingspan of over 2.5m! Feeds on animal bones, dropping them from high to get to the bone marrow inside.



15 POINTS

COMMON BUZZARD

One of the most common birds of prey in Europe. Look for it circling for prey over woods and fields.



5 POINTS

BAT

There are over 20 species of bat here, all with their own different calls. Try looking around lamps at night for them.



5 POINTS

CHAMOIS

A small goat-antelope, seen both in herds and small groups. They are very agile, and can run fast over rocky ground.



5 POINTS

STEINBOCK

Extinct around Kandersteg until the early 20th Century. Have very long horns; males fight each other with these!



15 POINTS

LEAF BEATLE

This is everywhere! Its shell has a fine mesh which reflects blue and green light, making its bright shiny colour.



10 POINTS

ALPINE CHOUGH

This bird is easy to spot due to its yellow beak and orange legs. Watch out though, they love to steal food!



5 POINTS

TREECREEPER

This small brown bird is easy to spot, as it runs up trees like a mouse, chasing insects to eat with its sharp pointy bill.



10 POINTS



Plants

EDELWEISS

The most famous Alpine flower, but the hardest to find! Only grows alone, high up on sunny, rocky slopes.



15 POINTS

ALPINE PANSY

These have 5 petals and colour from purple to bright blue. At the end of summer they burst open to spread seeds.



4 POINTS

TRUMPET GENTIAN

This small blue flower is trumpet shaped, and found in meadows. It is used to make alcoholic drinks like Aperol.



3 POINTS

ALPINE STRAWBERRY

Look down to spot these! Much smaller than ones you buy, but also sweeter too. Their tiny white flowers are easy to find.



4 POINTS

GLOBE FLOWER

Another easy spot, these circular yellow flowers grow 60cm above the ground. Often found in fields of cows or sheep.



3 POINTS

WOOD SORREL

This edible plant has 3 plain green, heart shaped leaves, which taste of apples. Grows in shade; is an easy spot.



2 POINTS

FRAGRANT ORCHID

Some of the most beautiful flowers, and also the toughest to spot! Look for a spike of flowers poking out from fields.



10 POINTS

BUTTERCUP

This mountain species can be found on high alpine fields. It lives in wetter, boggy areas; look for its shiny waxy leaves.



3 POINTS

LARCH

This looks like a normal pine, but its needles are very soft, as it is the only pine that loses its leaves in Autumn!



4 POINTS

BIRCH

This is one of the few non-pine species here. Easy to spot due to its grey/white papery bark, and simple leaves.



3 POINTS