Peppered Moth Scavenger Hunt Activity

Standard
4th Grade Life Sciences 2.3
Evidence Outcomes: Use evidence to develop a scientific explanation on how organisms adapt to their habitat (DOK 1-3)

7th Grade Life Science 2.1
Evidence Outcomes: Analyze and interpret data about specific adaptations to provide evidence and develop claims about differential survival and reproductive success (DOK 1-3)

Objective
Demonstrate the process of natural selection and how it leads to speciation of organisms.

Supplements:
Peppered Moth introduction slides
http://www.techapps.net/interactives/pepperMoths.swf

Materials
Several Sheets of coloured paper
Cutting utensils
Several cardboard cutouts from shape below for students to trace
Sticky tape to stick moths onto surfaces

Overview
1. Divide class into 2 groups
2. Each kid in each group will be sheets of coloured paper (suggested: black, brown, green, white, and pink)
3. Each kid will cut out ~12 moth shapes from their paper and write their name on the bottom of each.
4. Each group will be given 2 minutes to hide and stick 4 of their moths on a surface or object.
5. After all the moths of one group have been placed the other groups will be given 1 minute to find as many moths as they can.
6. Each kid picks up their surviving moths and count them.
7. Each surviving moth will "give birth" to 2 more moths of the same colour and the activity is repeated from step 4.

Extension: If several iterations are done (more than 2), students can count and plot the number of offspring for each generation.