

Activity: Get to Know a Plant



Purpose:

The purpose of this craft is to encourage the creative and critical thinking of students when considering biological organisms such as plants. It is easy to look at two plants and call them different based on their color (i.e., one is pink, the other is yellow). However, there are truly many unique and explicit differences between even the most similar of plants.

Competencies Covered:

- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Identify unique differences between organisms
- Make observations about living organisms and their detailed appearance
- Collect simple data

Materials:

- Paper
- Drawing utensils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Fabric
- Foam
- Pipe cleaners
- Other crafting materials or textures that may be desired

Procedure:

1. Choose a small plant (anything wanted to be taken back physically must be approved by leader/teacher prior to picking).
2. At the top of a blank piece of paper, write the name of the plant.
3. Draw the entire plant on a piece of paper.
 - a. The side views
 - b. The top view
 - c. The bottom view
 - d. The roots

- e. Arrangement
- 4. Close your eyes and feel the plant.
 - a. What does it feel like? Under your drawing or on another piece of paper, write some words that describe the feeling (e.g. rough, dry, soft).
- 5. Smell the plant.
 - a. How does it smell? Write some words that describe the smell.
- 6. Find the name of the chosen organism and whether it is native, non-native or invasive to your local area.
- 7. After finishing drawing, make it! Using pipe cleaners, paper and/or felt (or any other material you feel necessary or replace with natural/recycled materials?) to create your chosen plant.
- 8. Pay close attention to the details you have drawn and noted to create it as accurately as you can!