



Native Plant Seek

LESSON

GRADE LEVEL K-3

CATEGORY Plants, Animals & Habitats

TOPIC Native Plants

TIME

20 minutes

MATERIALS

Set of plant puzzle pieces
(see Activity Copy Pages - Native Plant Seek Cards)

SETTING

Open space in classroom,
gym or outdoors

GROUP SIZE

Class

SKILLS

Identification, communication,
comparison, matching

SUBJECTS

Science, Language Arts and Art

Overview

Students will be able to:

- ③ Recognize some native plants and their key features.
- ③ Match plant features and/or names to plant pictures.

Background

Native plants have evolved for thousands of years in a region as part of native ecosystems. They are an essential part of the web of life within an ecosystem and play important roles such as providing food and shelter for wildlife – from invertebrates to large mammals. Exploring the diversity of native plants in your region gives us a sense of connection to the unique landscape and ecosystems around us and increases our awareness of the beauty and importance of native species and ecosystems.

Material Preparation

Make a set of plant puzzle pieces using supplied Activity Copy Pages - Native Plant Seek Cards). Laminate the cards for reuse and cut out. For older students you may want to introduce them to the plants you have selected. You may want to bring in samples of plants (preferably in pots), colour pictures and/or take them outdoors to match the pictures with the plants. For assistance refer to regional native plant field guide .

The Activity

Students circulate holding their plant puzzle piece or card trying to find the person with the card that matches with theirs. Once all the partners are matched up, come together in a large group and have each pair tell the rest of the group what plant they have and something special or unique about it. Younger students can just share what is special about the plant: if it has berries, flowers, certain shaped leaves, etc.

Extensions

As a follow-up to this activity, use the cards in partners for a walk to identify/ explore the plants out in their natural environment. Option: have students colour the plants – especially fl wers and berries or put colour pictures of the plants on the back of the cards Plant cards can be used for quieter indoor activities. Matching sets of cards can be a small group activity. Younger students may like to make their own set of plant puzzle cards to take home. Colour certain features (i.e. colour the Nootka rose fl wers pink), then paste and cut cards onto cardstock.

Resources for Native Plants

Naturescape British Columbia: Caring for Wildlife Habitat at Home (Series, Kits)

- ③ Provincial Guide (Campbell, Susan and Sylvia Pincott. 2005. Ministry of Env., Lands and Parks)
- ③ Resource Booklets (Georgia Basin, Southern Interior, Southern Interior Mountains, Central Interior)
- ③ Native Plant and Animal Booklets (Georgia Basin, Southern Interior, Southern Interior Mountains, Central Interior)
- ③ Naturescape Website: www.hctf.ca/nature.htm

Pettinger, A. and B. Costanzo (1996) Native Plants in the Coastal Garden. Whitecap Books, North Vancouver, BC (Revised edition 2002).

Turner, Nancy J. (1998) Plant Technology of First Peoples of British Columbia. Royal British Columbia Museum and UBC Press.

Field Guides for Native Plants in BC

Johnson, D, L. Kershaw, A. MacKinnon and J. Pojar (eds.). 1995. Plants of the Western Boreal Forest and Aspen Parkland. Lone Pine Publishing and the Canadian Forest Service, Canada.

Kershaw, L., A. MacKinnon and J. Pojar. Plants of the Rocky Mountains. Lone Pine Publishing

MacKinnon, A., J. Pojar, and R. Coupé. 1992. Plants of Northern British Columbia. BC Ministry of Forests and Lone Pine Publishing, Canada.

Parish, R., R. Coupé and D. Lloyd. 1996. Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia. BC Ministry of Forests and Lone Pine Publishing, Canada.

Parish, R., R. Coupé, and D. Lloyd, 1999. Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest. Lone Pine Publishing,

Pojar, J. and A. MacKinnon. 1994. Plants of Coastal British Columbia: Including Washington, Oregon and Alaska.. BC Ministry of Forests and Lone Pine Publishing, Canada.

Pojar, Jim and Andy MacKinnon. 1994. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, BC.

