

Adopt a Plant

OVERVIEW: Observation is an important science process skill. Plant identification is an excellent way for students to develop good observation skills by looking at plant details such as flower color, shape, number of petals, height, leaf shape, position, and many other characteristics. This activity will introduce students to cedar glade plants as they match the plant description with the appropriate image of the cedar glade plant. The cedar glade ecosystem has many plants that are not found anywhere else in the world. These plants are known as endemic plants and are of interest to scientists and land managers, who protect and study these populations. These individuals also provide information to government agencies or private organizations that monitor the status of rare plants.

GRADE LEVEL: 2 - 6

SETTING: Classroom

OBJECTIVE: Students will match the description on the card to the appropriate plant.

LEARNING STANDARDS: GLE 0207.5.1; 0307.5.1; 0407.5.1

MATERIALS: Plant Description Cards
Cedar Glade Plant Photograph Cards
Flatrock Glade Plant Guides

TEACHER INFORMATION:

- For younger students, a worksheet is attached (answers: Kerri – Tennessee Coneflower; Jose – fame flower; Hannah – redcedar; Drew – prickly pear cactus; Yolanda – glade sandwort)
- Plant description cards and color flower cards are in the appendix. These will need to be cut apart and mounted on 4 x 6 index cards or card stock, laminating will protect the cards.
- Additional color sets can be printed from the Center for Cedar Glade Studies website through the teacher resources link:
www.mtsu.edu/~gladectr
- 1 set of description and plant cards per group, shuffled (the number of cards distributed per team will vary with the size of the class; for a class of 30, each team will receive 5 plant and 5 description cards)
- 1 Flatrock Glade Plant Guide per student for reference (request copies by sending an email to: gladecenter@mtsu.edu)

PROCEDURE: The object of this activity is to match plant pictures with written plant descriptions. Students will describe plant characteristics they observe from a color picture of a plant and listen carefully to plant descriptions to correctly match these two together. This is very similar to what a scientist would do in the field with an unknown plant; they will carefully observe the plant characteristics and then match those observed structures with a description in a plant guide book. To begin:

1. Instruct students to shuffle their set of plant description and color flower cards together and place in one stack.
2. Each student in the group will select a card from the stack. The group will pick someone to go first.
3. To begin to find a match, the student selected to go first will either read the plant description card (if that's what they drew from the stack) or describe the color photograph of their plant on their card to rest of the group (color, number of petals, leaves).
4. If someone has the plant card that matches, they give their card to that person and both draw another card from the stack. The person who had the match to the first player's card goes next. If there is not a match, the student will keep their card and pass their turn to the person on their left.
5. The game continues until all the sets are matched. Students will keep up with the number of matches they each complete.
6. When completed with their original set of plant cards and description cards, instruct teams to swap sets with other groups. Continue until all cards have been discussed.

Name _____

Five children adopted plants in the local cedar glade ecosystem to study. Read the description and place an 'X' in the correct row and column.

1. Kerri's plant is named after a state.
2. Jose's plant is small with 5 petals and round leaves.
3. Hannah's plant is a large evergreen tree that is found at the edge of the cedar glade.
4. Drew's plant has sharp spines and is the only native cactus found in Tennessee.
5. Yolanda's plant has small, star-shaped flowers and grows in shallow soil.

	Tennessee Coneflower 	Glade Sandwort 	Fame Flower 	Prickly Pear Cactus 	Eastern Redcedar 
Yolanda					
Drew					
Kerri					
Hannah					
Jose					

