

Teaching Ideas / Discussion Questions

1. Go on a nature walk around the school to identify as many plants as you can.
2. Discuss why some areas don't have any plants and brainstorm why.
3. Have a class brainstorm about all the things plants are used for.
4. Keep a science journal. Today we learned about xxx and I found out that xxx
5. Mystery plants. Give each student or groups of students plant seeds. Don't tell them what they are. Let them keep a journal about the plant growth and make predictions about what they think their mystery plant is.
6. Mystery plant riddles. Let each student create a riddle about their plant and then read them for all students to guess. (My plant grows on vines, my plant provides us with large orange fruit, you see my orange fruit in the month of October. (*Pumpkin*).
7. Make a plant collage, but this collage should only contain pictures of products and the name of the plant it comes from. For example paper comes from a tree, a shirt comes from the cotton plant.
8. Make individual or group terrariums. The larger plastic soda bottles work well if you cut a U shape into them, fill half way with soil and plant your seeds. Put them in a window. (Put a shallow layer of gravel on the bottom before adding the soil, that way you won't need drainage.)
9. Make a seed collection or flower or fruit/vegetable collage.
10. Design seed packages for your favorite plants.
11. Grow sprouts. Use damp paper towels to wrap mung seeds, lima beans, or kidney beans in and slip them into a small plastic zip lock type bag. Keep them in a dark spot until they sprout. Then move them to the sunlight.
12. Make a leaf collage and label the leaves.
13. Make leaf prints. Collect leaves, use a sponge dipped lightly in paint to cover the leaf and press the painted leaf on to the paper.
14. Press flowers between paper towels in books. Make pressed flower art pictures or bookmarks.
15. Make potpourri by drying many flowers.

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16. Brainstorm 'What do we know about Plants'.
17. How many different plants can you list?
18. Organize a trip to a nursery.
19. Show how plants get their water and food. (Use a white carnation in a see through jar with food coloring, the carnation will change color as it takes the water up the stem into the flower)
20. Grow plants from seeds in egg cartons or plastic cups. Track growth. Experiment with and without water, sand instead of soil etc.
21. Plants of 6 main parts (roots, flowers, stem, seeds, fruit, leaves) look through various pictures online or in magazines and try to determine which part of the plant the food is from.
22. Flower Power—how many different flowers can you name?
23. Seeds: what are they? Where do they come from? What seeds do we eat? Why are they important?
24. Look at various seeds and compare them.
25. Compare / contrast what humans need to what plants need.
26. Start a seed collection and show the before and after of each seed.
27. Seeds in baggies: use wet paper towels to roll up the seed, place in clear baggy. Seeds take about 4 days to germinate. Use dried beans for this.
28. Play mystery plant game. (I'm a flower, I have thorns on my stem, what plant am I—Rose)
29. Take a nature walk, compare leaves, count how many petals are on different flowers. Use appropriate language to describe the plant life observed.
30. Why are plants important? What would happen if there were no plants?
31. Where do seeds come from?
32. Collect as many food photos/pictures as you can. Determine which pictures of food come from plants and which part of the plant.
33. Using the letters from A to Z, can you come up with plant words for each letter?
34. Explore where seeds come from with a variety of fruit. Cut them open and count the seeds in each fruit, make a display.
35. Grow plants without seeds: use a sweet potato and immerse halfway in water in a glass, use toothpicks to keep the other half out of the water, watch it sprout. Do the same with an onion.
36. Plants grow toward light, look at various plants/trees outdoors to notice this phenomenon.
37. Compare the plant life cycle with other life cycles (tadpole, butterfly, human...)
38. Make a collage with the clipart showing the parts of plants we eat (broccoli—flower and stem, celery—stem...)