

Buffalo Trace Education Box

Lesson 23

Indiana Plants

Name That Plant

Purpose: Students will identify plant parts and functions as plant parts we eat and historically used for other purposes.

Standard: 4.LS.3 Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that functions to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction in different ecosystems.

Materials Needed for Plant Parts and Functions: Plant Parts We Eat flash cards pdf (each group gets a complete set) and Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18amLZ9vfG8>.

Steps:

1. Survey the students on plants they like to eat. (You might have a few vegetables and fruits as examples.)
2. Play the video of plant parts and functions.
3. Divide the class into groups and pass out the flash cards. Groups match the plants and functions.
4. When time is up, check the responses.

Materials Needed for Writing Activity about Historic Plant Uses: a plant, list of Indiana plants pdf, access to research materials (computer, books)

Steps:

1. Have a plant available for the students to observe during the group writing activity — fern, a flowering plant, or visit a tree on school grounds.
2. What words could describe the plant: color, shape of leaves (drawing), size of plant, type (bush, tree, small plant), flowers, and uses.
3. Read over the list of Indiana plants. Do students recognize or seen any of them?
4. Form partners. Choose an Indiana plant or assign a plant to the partners.
5. Complete a description of the plant.
6. From the clues can others determine which plant is described?

Resources:

- The Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Marketing Council have free books and soy crayons. <https://incornandsoy.org/books-and-crayons/>
- Check out the “ID that Tree” videos from Leeny Farlee, Purdue Extension.
- Download a guide to medicinal plants from the Medicinal Plant Garden from The Indiana Medical History Museum, Indianapolis.
- The Indiana Native Plant Society posts Gordon Mitchell’s Plant Profiles (<https://indiananativeplants.org/native-plants/gordon-mitchell-articles/>).
- The Buffalo Trace Education Box contains a burr oak acorn (half hidden in a fringed cup), the largest acorn in the oak family. The burr oak grows in moist soils, often found in bottom land along rivers and prairies. It is a shallow rooted tree with roots that spread wide to keep other trees at a distance. The burr Oak is a long-lived tree, easily spanning three-four centuries.

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Your Name _____ Partner's Name _____

Indiana Plant _____

Description:

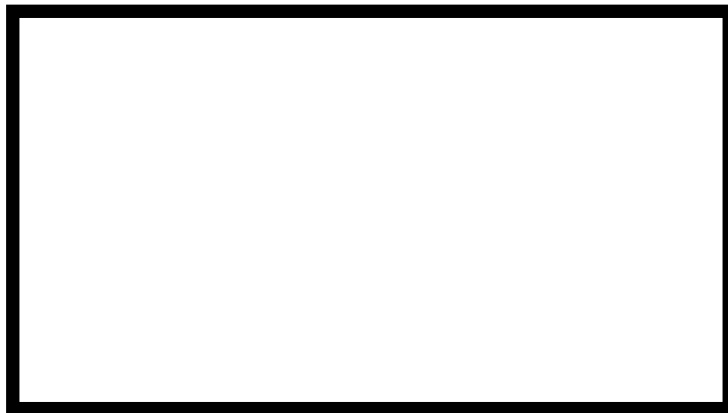
- Colors _____
- Shape of Leaves _____

- Drawing of a leaf



- Size

- Drawing of the flowers



- Uses for the plant

• _____

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Common Plantain

Dandelion

Dogwood

Goldenrod

Jewelweed

Mullein

Sassafras

White Clover

Wild Mint

Wood Sorrel

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Common Plantain

Dandelion

Dogwood

Goldenrod

Jewelweed

Mullein

Sassafras

White Clover

Wild Mint

Wood Sorrel

asparagus

stem

beet

root

broccoli
florets

flower

carrot

root

cauliflower

flower

coconut

fruit

lettuce

leaf

lima
beans

seed

peanut

seed

potato

root

rice

seed

spinach

leaf

strawberry

fruit

sweet
potato

root

tomato

fruit

watermelon

fruit