

OVERVIEW

Students learn about the importance of plants through a game of survival. Using identification skills, teamwork and good communication they must correctly identify 10 plants and then group and sort them. This activity provides an introduction into sorting and classification and why it is important.

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Sc6/2.1 Living things and their habitat
- KS3 Science: Genetics and evolution
- KS3 Science: Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- to appreciate the varied uses of plants
- to understand the need to sort and classify plants

INTRODUCTION - FOOD POISON MEDICINE PPT

Use the PowerPoint to introduce the game and to provide a structure as students work through the activity. There are prompts plus questions and answers to use in the text boxes under the slides as well as in the accompanying notes. Each team of students will need a set of plant images, descriptions and names cut out and ready to sort but don't hand these out straight away. The answers sheet can be used as a teacher's cheat sheet and/or to give out to students after Activity 1 or at the end.

ACTIVITY 1 - FORAGING & IDENTIFYING

Working in teams of 4-6, each team is split into two. One half has the plant descriptions and the other the plant images. The two halves must communicate successfully to match each plant with the correct description. Next they need to see if they can add a name to each plant. Hand out images and descriptions to the relevant half of the team once they're ready to start. Once they have matched them they can come back together to add names.

ACTIVITY 2 - SORTING

Once each team has identified and named their plants they must sort them. The three categories to sort them into are: Edible, Poisonous or Medicinal. They need to discuss their answers as a team.

ACTIVITY 3 - JUSTIFICATION

Students must decide on three plants to keep and work as a team to justify their choices.

RESOURCES

- Food Poison Medicine PowerPoint presentation
- Food Poison Medicine accompanying notes
- Food Poison Medicine plant images
- Food Poison Medicine plant descriptions
- Food Poison Medicine plant names
- Food Poison Medicine answers sheet

DIFFERENTIATION

- Words can be blacked out on the plant descriptions to make plants harder to identify.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Challenge students to find out more about one of the plants or about the Nightshade family in general.
- Investigate historic and modern medicines derived from plants.
- Find out about some other important plant families and their uses.
- Have a go at sorting a variety of common fruits and vegetables into their respective families and deciding on characteristics they have in common.
- Visit the systematic or 'family' beds at Cambridge Botanic Garden to directly compare plants and plant families.

LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions or comments, or would like to book a visit to the Botanic Garden please get in touch: education@botanic.cam.ac.uk

<https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/the-garden/gardens-plantings/systematic-beds/>