

MEET A PLANT – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!

Source: Canadian Museum of Nature

Basic Description:

This activity takes participants through a guided observation process that helps them focus on plant characteristics as a way to enhance both their appreciation and their knowledge of plants, plant adaptations and plant diversity. This activity also helps sharpen their observation and inquiry skills.

Materials:

- Observation cards - one per participant
- Pencils, erasers and clipboards - one per participant

Time Allotment: 45 minutes

Procedure:

Introduction (10 min)

- Introduce the activity by asking the participants to describe, from memory, a common local native plant. Ask specific questions about the colours, shapes, size, number of petals, etc.
- This discussion may reveal a need to sharpen our observation skills and learn more about our local native flora.
- Distribute observation cards and material.
- Review instructions and identify the physical boundaries within which activity takes place.

Activity (20 min)

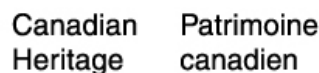
- Participants walk through the designated area and choose a plant they wish to observe.
- Finding a place to sit, they carry out the observations on the card.
- After 20 minutes, they return to the starting point.

Follow-up/Discussion (15 min)

- Participants take turn introducing the plant they have chosen by presenting the highlights of their observations.
- This sharing of observations is done on a voluntary basis.
- A group discussion can follow about what the participants feel they have learned from this activity.
- The participants can also share the questions they came to their minds (see observation sheets) and see if other members of the group may have answers.

Extension

- The activity could be repeated in another habitat.
- A local “flora” could be compiled from the various observations.
- Participants research the questions they have written down on their activity sheet and this could be added to the “flora”.



Observation Card

My drawing of the plant

Physical characteristics:

Description of its habitat:

Questions I have about this plant: