

## PLANT IMAGERY

**Source:** Maggie Kilian & Laurel McIvor

**Basic Description:**

Students work in pairs, one student is blind-folded while the other describes a nearby plant. Once the blindfold is removed, the partner tries to find the plant that was described. This observation activity requires strong observation, descriptive and problem solving skills and is an effective way to introduce morphological terminology.

**Ages/ Abilities:** ages 5 to adult

**Materials:**

- blindfolds (optional)
- plant field guides (for the discussion)

**Time Allotment:** 30 minutes

**Procedure:**

- In partners, have one person close their eyes or put on a blindfold.
- The other partner will pick a plant they can see and describe it in as much detail as possible to their partner.
- The partner then opens their eyes and tries to find the plant their partner described.
- Switch roles and repeat

**Follow-up/Discussion** (10 min)

- Participants share their experience & what sort of descriptions made it easier to find the plant.
- what sort of descriptions were not very helpful?
- discuss how having a common understanding of the terms is helpful: i.e. what is the difference between a “hairy” leaf and a “downy” leaf? (can use the plant field guides as reference for some of the terms)
- lead into a discussion about plant diversity and the variety of plants found in your location: Is there a high or low diversity? Which sorts of habitats may have low plant diversity, which may have high diversity? Why?

**Extensions**

- Hug-a-tree activity
- Learning to use field guides for plant identification

