

From Salmonberry to Sagebrush: Exploring Oregon's Native Plants

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	iii
Introduction	ix



SECTION 1: PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Section 1: Plant Identification Section Divider	xii
1. Botany Bouquet	1
Explore and become familiar with plant names, and the usefulness of a common plant language.	
2. Botanical Terms Challenge	5
A plant structure and function vocabulary-building lesson using vocabulary sheets or a crossword puzzle.	
3. The Secret Life of Flowers	14
An art-based activity using the flower paintings of Georgia O'Keefe for inspiration. Students dissect, observe, and record flower anatomy.	
4. Drupes, Pomes, & Loculicidal Capsules: A Botanist's Lingo for Describing Native Fruits...	22
Understand the different types of native fruits and learn to categorize them.	
5. What's in a Name?	27
A technology-based lesson on the importance of using scientific names.	
6. Plants Have Families Too	33
Learn nine common Oregon plant families and explore the science of taxonomy.	
7. Mechanics of a Key	39
Learn the basics of how a dichotomous key works and how to construct one by keying out the students in the classroom.	
8. Make a Field Guide for Your School	45
Construct a dichotomous key and field guide to a natural area near the school grounds.	
9. Make Your Own Plant Collection	50
Make a herbarium of local species. Learn proper technique for collecting, pressing, labeling, mounting, and storage of the collection.	
10. Create-a-Plant	56
Create a fictional plant and field guide entry to demonstrate understanding.	



SECTION 2: ECOREGIONS OF OREGON

Section 2..... 64

11. Explore Oregon's Ecoregions 65

An overview of Oregon's eight ecoregions. Learn about the biological, climatic, and geographical diversity of the state.

12. The Place I Call Home 74

Explore what makes your or each ecoregion different from its neighbors, find out about human influences, land use, and a few of the special species that live there.

13. Ecosystem Comparisons..... 81

Collect data to compare and contrast different native habitats in their ecoregion.

14. An Ecosystem through an Artist's Eye 89

Explore the concept of ecological scale through art to encourage aesthetic appreciation of natural landscapes.



SECTION 3: ECOLOGY OF NATIVE PLANTS

Section 3..... 93

15. What's Goin' Down Underground?..... 94

Explore two important biotic interactions in the soil—nitrogen fixation and mycorrhizae. Study how plants, bacteria, and fungi work together.

16. Survival Quest: A Pollination Game 102

Explore the relationships between flowers and pollinators, gain a basic understanding of co-evolution, and study local native flowers and their pollinators.

17. Plant Wars: A Tale of Offense and Defense 111

Learn about secondary chemicals that plants produce to protect themselves, and how other organisms counteract these chemicals in the intricate dance of co-evolution of species.

18. What is a Plant?..... 118

Explore other plant-like organisms, such as lichens, mosses, and fungi and learn what makes a plant a plant.



SECTION 4: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY: NATIVE, NON-NATIVE, AND INVASIVE PLANTS

Section 4..... 127

19. Field Journaling: Observations from a Special Spot..... 128

Introduction to the use of a journal for making field observations, and recording seasonal activities and our reactions to them.

20. Nurture a Native Garden Project (three part lesson)..... 132

Research, plan, and grow a native plant wildflower garden as a school project.

Part I: Research and Planning

Part II: Starting Seeds and Growing Plants

Part III: Planting and Celebrating

21. Weed Explosion 151

A math-based lesson that introduces the characteristics of invasive plants and how quickly they can impact ecosystems.

22. Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations..... 162

Learn three common techniques used by researchers for collecting data on plant populations.



SECTION 5: ETHNOBOTANY

Section 5..... 171

23. Who Walked Here Before Me 172

Learn about American Indian culture both past and present by studying tribal use of native plants for food and fiber. Weave a plant story incorporating the land, its natural resources, and the people who use them.

24. My Burden Basket: How Native Plants are Used for Fiber 181

Hands-on activity to explore American Indian uses of native plants for cordage and basketry.

25. Plants as Medicine: Make Your Own Herbal Salve 190

Learn about the modern application of plants as medicines and make a healing plant-based salve.



SECTION 6: CLIMATE CHANGE & PHENOLOGY

Section 6..... 198

26. Phenology: Tracking the Seasons in Your World..... 199

Use a journal to record seasonal changes, explore climate change, and participate in a citizen science program to contribute to a national database.

27. Plant Migration Game: A Race Between Plants and Climate Change..... 206

Play a climate change simulation board game exploring the different ways life history influences how species react to a changing climate.



SECTION 7: THE FUTURE OF OREGON'S NATIVE PLANTS

Section 7..... 216

28. Nobody Right, Nobody Wrong: A Role-Playing Game 217

Through a role-playing scenario, explore three current Oregon ecosystem management issues: ranching and riparian areas, endangered species and land use, and forest issues.

29. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Can't Live Without 'Em 229

Explore biodiversity, global endemic hotspots, and ecosystem services and how they apply to Oregon. Conduct a schoolyard plant biodiversity survey.

30. Saving Oregon's Treasures: Threatened and Endangered Plants 236

Participate in a jigsaw activity to learn the basics of the Endangered Species Act and use computer research skills to learn about the rare plants of Oregon.

31. Oregon's Native Ecosystems: Design a Habitat Restoration Plan 248

Explore the components of restoration ecology, including economic and ethical issues, and develop decision-making tools using design principles. Make the connection to a community service project.

APPENDICES

References 259

Glossary 262

Oregon Education Standards Correlations 273

Appendix I: Recommended Botanical Field Guides for Oregon Ecoregions 281

Appendix II: Schoolyard Species List..... 283

Appendix III: Oregon Ethnobotany Plants and Their Uses 304

Appendix IV: Ethnobotany Plant Lists and Resources 306

Appendix V: American Indian Ethnobotanical Resource Materials 313

Appendix VI: Tribe Contacts..... 316

Appendix VII: Contacts For Service-Learning Partners and Field Sites 317

Appendix VIII: Make Your Own Quadrat Frame..... 331