

roots, fruits and seeds k-2

PRE/POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

Pre-visit Activity #1 - Plant Chart

Objectives: Generate discussion about plants and flowers with students. Determine what thoughts and ideas students have about plants and flowers. List ideas and concepts that students want to learn about.

Materials: Marker and flipchart or chalk and chalkboard

Activity: On a flipchart or chalkboard draw three columns. Label the columns as follows. What we know about plants, what we want to know about plants and what we learned about plants. Generate a discussion on what children's thoughts on plants are. What are plants? Do plants help people? How do plants grow? Record student thoughts on the chart or board under "What we know about plants". After the student's ideas are discussed, talk about questions or curiosities that the students have regarding plants. How old are plants? How do plants eat? How do plants survive cold and hot weather? How do insects and other animals benefit from plants? Record these points in the other column under "What we want to know about plants". After your trip revisit the plant chart. Take time for students to share with the class what they have learned. Record these points in the column under "what we learned about plants".

Pre-visit Activity #2 - Plant Show And Tell

Objectives: Explore the important roles that plants play in our everyday lives. Discover how many ways we come in contact with and use plants without even realizing it.

Materials: Various plant products brought in from home. Examples-cereal, fruit, flowers, coffee, cotton balls, paper, vegetables, etc.

Activity: Ask each student to bring in something from home that is a plant or that they think comes from plants. Bring in extra objects for those students who forget. Sit in a circle and ask students to present what they brought in from home. Discuss each object. What parts came from plants? We use plants for food, medicine, housing, and even some clothes are made from plants. Things made from plastic contain cellulose, which are basic plant fibers. Discuss how things like cereal, fruit juice, and a cotton t-shirt are all plant derived.

Discussion question: What would life on this planet be like without plants?



Post-visit Activity #1 - Complete Plant Chart

Objectives: Complete the plant chart by filling in what students have learned about plants after their visit to the garden.

Materials: Markers and flipchart or chalk and chalkboard

Activity: Take time for students to share with the class what they have learned. Record these points in the column under “what we learned about plants”.

Post-visit Activity #2 - Creating Garden Memories

Objectives: Review and record experiences from your trip to the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Materials per student: Construction paper, notebook paper, pencils, crayons and markers

Activity: Gather students in a circle and invite them to share their experience from the garden visit. What did they see? What was their favorite part of the garden? What was their favorite plant or tree? Ask students to create and draw a picture about their visit to the garden. If they are able, they may write a sentence or two about their experience. Once the students have completed their work, place the pages in a binder that can be placed in the reading area or library to be shared with parents. Be sure to include any photographs that were taken during the visit. Share your memories with other classes and grades.

Educator Resources:

Books

Adult:

- Lewington, Anna. USEFUL PLANTS New York: Oxford University Press, c1990
- Klein, Richard M. AN INTRODUCTION TO PLANTS AND PEOPLE: New York: Harper & Row, c1979

