



Be a Botanist...

## Student Created Plant Field Guide

**Grades:** 3-6

**Time:** 30-45 minutes

### Required Materials:

- Student field guide templates
- Pencils
- Clipboards
- Rulers or measuring tape
- Magnifying glass (optional-available for loan from LCEP)
- Plant field guides (optional-available for loan from LCEP)

### Learning Objectives:

1. Students will look closely at their school plant community.
2. Students will write detailed observations.
3. Students will practice taking measurements with a ruler.

### Introduction and background discussion (5-15 minutes):

- This activity can be used as a stand-alone, or in conjunction with Native and Invasive Plants Kit or Native American Plants Use Kit.
- Review how Native Americans used plants or the benefits of plants for humans and wildlife.
- Show examples of field guides and discuss how they are an important scientific tool for identifying and learning plants.
- Discuss the skills necessary to make quality observations (drawing and writing). Practice making written observations of simple objects and see if other students can guess the object. This activity works well in pairs. Discuss the types of details that are most helpful.

### Field Guide Activity (30 minutes)

- Distribute clipboards, field guide templates, pencils, and rulers.
- Students will become botanists. In pairs or individually, student should spend approximately 10 minutes to find a shrub, tree, or small plant to closely investigate.
- On the field guide template, students will create a name, describe physical characteristics, and create a human or wildlife benefit.

**Wrap-up (10-20 minutes):**

- Allow students time to share their field guide pages.

**Extension Ideas:**

- Individual pages can be compiled into a larger field guide and students can try to find the plants classmates chose.
- Visit the plants during a variety of seasons and record the changes.
- Write a story about how wildlife or humans use/benefit from their tree or how their plant ended up on the school campus.

Plant Field Guide by \_\_\_\_\_ (name/s)

Plant name: \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed plant drawing:

Size: Height \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle: inches or feet)

Width \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle: inches or feet)

Description (include leaves, bark, flower, etc):

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Where plant is found: \_\_\_\_\_

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How humans or wildlife benefit from this plant:

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