

Create-a-Plant

Introduction

After a visit to the Conservatory, students should have a good grasp of the concept of plant adaptation. In this creative activity, students are asked to create their own plant with its own set of adaptations. Students can write a summary and present it to the class.

There are two suggested approaches to this activity: Students can either construct models or draw imaginary plants that have adapted to specific environmental conditions.

Materials for drawing

Crayons, colored pencils, pens or other media.
Paper.

Suggested Materials for Constructing Models:

Construction or other colored paper	Toothpicks
Paper Mache	Buttons
Fabric	Thread
Tempera paint	Thread spools
Clay	Cotton
Glue	Corks
Tape	Straw
	Packing peanuts

Procedure

1. Ask students to select a biome: tropical rain forest, desert, grassland, deciduous forest, taiga or tundra.
2. Design a plant that will survive in your chosen biome.
3. As students design their plant, they can answer the following questions:
Does your plant need a lot or a little sunlight to grow?
How does it obtain this sunlight?
How does it get water?



Does your plant have a water shedding adaptation?

Why does it need this?

Does your plant have a water storing adaptation?

Why does it need this?

How does your plant obtain nutrients?

Does your plant protect itself from insects or animals?

Does your plant have a strategy for dealing with wind?

4. Ask students to write a paper that describes their biome and the their plant's adaptations.

