

The Importance Of Plants

KS2
UPPER*

National curriculum objectives



- working scientifically: recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs

Resources (you will need):

Microscopes or magnifying glasses, find a few of Linnaeus' observational drawings (online), pencils, drawing paper, coloured paper, paper towels and heavy books.



60 MINUTE ACTIVITY

Follow in the footsteps of famous taxonomist, Carl Linnaeus, in identifying, recording and classifying flowering plants. Show learners how to carefully choose a flowering stem, with its leaves, and study it with a microscope or magnifying glass. Demonstrate really looking and observing carefully. Ask learners to do the same, ensuring you do not ask them to do anything else, apart from talk about their observations with a partner. Next show the class some of Linnaeus' drawings online and encourage them to make their own careful drawings of the specimens they have collected, annotating the key features. Finally, show learners how to press the flowers between paper towels and underneath heavy books. These can be displayed alongside the drawings, in books or on a display board.

N.B. Teachers need to research possible dangerous plants in the area e.g. poisonous to eat; cause severe skin reactions, as well as those protected by law. No whole plant must be uprooted or destroyed. Picking flowers in certain places is illegal e.g. parks, commemorative gardens and Nature Reserves (see The Royal Horticultural Society website if you're unsure).

Class reflection:

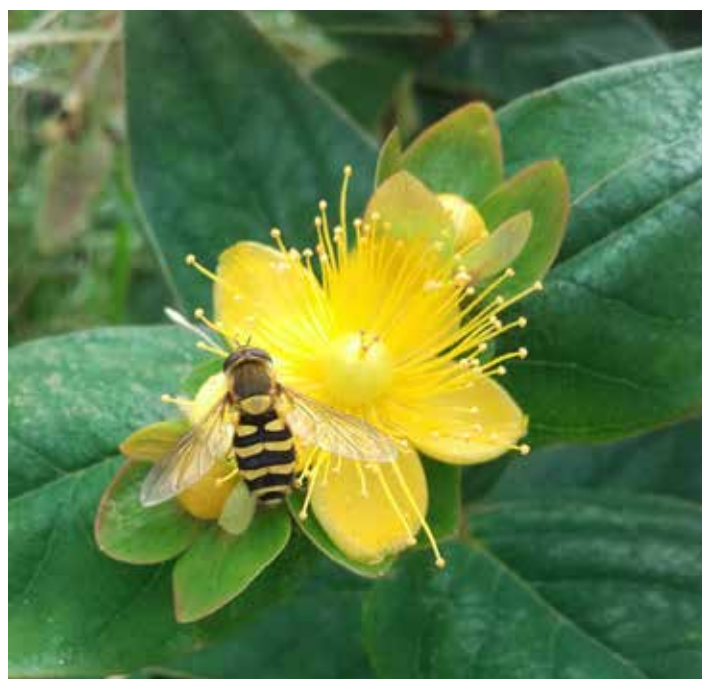
Carl Linnaeus created a system that helped sort animals and plants into categories, making it much easier for scientists at the time to keep track of all the new species being discovered. Studying plants now is still very important as they slowly change and evolve over time. Learning what species are endangered, evolving, or overpopulated means we can care for the planet in different ways, helping to avoid plant species going extinct.

Have time for a literacy link?

Carl Linnaeus wrote observational descriptions of the specimen he collected. He was also a poet. Encourage learners to either write a detailed paragraph to help others classify plants or a poem about the plant they drew. A mix of both makes a great display, article in the school magazine or entry in the class floorbook.

Philosopher question:

Is it ok to pick plants and flowers?



*Year 5 and 6 objectives