



Ecology Explorer Lesson Plan

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Grades 4 +

Title: Arizona Plant Booklet
An Introduction to Arizona Plants & Cacti

Description:

This lesson will introduce students to the variety of plants & cacti in their community. It will increase their awareness of the species as they collect samples or photographs of the trees & cacti in their area. This will lead them to the identification of their samples. This will link to the identification of the different palo verde trees and to the study of the bruchid beetle as defined by the Ecology Explorers protocol.

Objective:

The student will be able to identify plants and cacti in their own community.

Materials:

Cameras; digital or other
Large Construction Paper
Scissors, Glue, Tape, Pencils, Markers
Books from library on AZ Plants & Cacti

Procedure:

1. Introduce study of AZ through showing AZ video- Discuss what are different areas to study, for example plants, animals, cities, or cultures. Explain that during the first quarter we will be studying AZ plants.
2. Make KWL chart on what they know about AZ plants
 - a. What they know
 - b. What they want to know
 - c. What they have learned
3. Introduce project with class- Collection of plant samples.
4. Send home parent letter discussing project and time frame.
 - a. For 2 weeks, students collect specimens/ samples. Students will place them in individual plastic zip lock bags.
5. Mount them on construction paper using glue and transparent tape.
6. Sort and identify using dichotomous key in the Ecology Explorers Teacher's Guide Pg. 40. Modify if necessary. Use books from library for reference.



Assessment:

1. Students will be able to identify trees and cacti on campus.
2. Students will be able to identify common Arizona plants.

Extension:

1. Students will present their collections to the class.
2. Students will map their yard and label location of plants / yard features

Special Needs Accommodations:

1. Students may work in teams or groups