



Plants in a Natural Community & Nature's Waste

Weaselhead Field Trip: Student Worksheets

Name:

Date:

Roped Area Study – Meadow (group activity)

Find a section of the meadow, lay the rope down in a circle. Study the plants growing in your circle.

Find a simple leaf in your area and draw it.	Find a compound leaf in your area and draw it.
The name of this plant is:	The name of this plant is:

Find a woody plant and draw it.	Find a herbaceous plant and draw it.
The name of this plant is:	The name of this plant is:

Choose two different species of plants in your area.

How can you tell they are different? Check all that apply:

- The edges of the leaves are different (e.g. smooth or jagged).
- The shape of the leaves is different.
- The colour of the leaves is different.
- The colour of the stems is different.
- The stems feel different (e.g. rough, smooth or prickly).
- The flowers look different (e.g. colour, number of petals, shape).
- The plants have different seed-bearing structures (e.g. berries, fluffy seedheads, cones).

Plant Detective (group activity)

Hunt around the Meadow and find the plant on the card. *(To help you find the right plant look at the colour, shape and edges of leaves, feel the stems – are they smooth or prickly, do they feel tough and woody or delicate, look for fruit or flowers... these all have to be the same as on your card. Remember you usually find flowers in spring and summer and fruit in fall.)*

When you have found your plant draw it:

The name of this plant is:

Read the card. Can you find some 'fun facts' about your plant?

Nature's Waste Study (group activity)

Decomposers eat dead plants and animals (and poop!). They break down the chemicals in the dead "stuff" and return them to the soil. Plants then use these chemicals to grow. Decomposers are Nature's recyclers 😊

1. Make a habitat for a decomposer in your bucket.
2. When the habitat has been approved by the Naturalist find a decomposer (or several decomposers) to add to your habitat.
3. Observe what the decomposer does.
4. Do you think there are decomposers in your bucket too small to see?

Plants in an Oxbow (optional)

Not all plants reproduce by seed, some reproduce by **spores**. What's the difference between a seed and a spore? Circle 'yes' or 'no' below:

- A spore is so tiny you can't see it without a microscope: yes/no
- Seeds can take root and grow in lots of conditions, but spores can only grow in damp places: yes/no

Draw two plants that you did not see in the Meadow.

The name of this plant is: It reproduces by seeds/spores. It is growing in a wet/dry area. <i>(circle the correct answers)</i>	The name of this plant is: It reproduces by seeds/spores. It is growing in a wet/dry area. <i>(circle the correct answers)</i>