

PLANT-RELATED WEB SITES WE LIKE

General Sites

Botanists-in-Training - This mini-site for kids teaches about plant types — from cone bearers to algae — and describes experiments and action steps (such as starting a garden) to preserve biodiversity.

http://www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/cbcn4kids/kids_cbcn.htm

Dandelion Dilemma - Young Alex conducts a fascinating science fair study on an environmentally friendly approach to dealing with these ubiquitous weeds.

http://www.k12.nf.ca/stbons/newsevents/20022003/sciencefair/alex_r.htm

Fast Plants – Offers fast growing plants (40 day life cycles) for classroom use.

<http://www.fastplants.org/>

Fond of Fronds - Advice on growing and observing ferns in the classroom.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/Dig/DigDetail.taf?ID=1092&Type=Art>

The Great Plant Escape - Fourth and fifth grade sleuths and teachers in growing classrooms can uncover many of the mysteries of plants and gardening through this interactive Web site.

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/gpe/>

“House Plants” - Once students try to uncover plant-related objects at home, have them compare their finds with this list.

<http://www.aspb.org/education/foundation/houseplants.pdf>

K-12 Resources: American Society of Plant Biologists - Features lots of good materials and links for teaching about plants.

<http://www.aspb.org/education/NEWK12.CFM>

Kidsgardening - An interactive hub where educators can find grants and other resources, rich content libraries, thematic projects, and networking opportunities.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com>

Homemade Terrarium - Instructions for building one in a 2-liter soda bottle.

<http://www.astc.org/exhibitions/rotten/terrarium.htm>

Making and Observing a Mini-Woodland Terrarium - A detailed lesson for engaging young observers.

http://eeingorgia.org/content/ee/docs/terrarium_lesson.pdf

My Dad, the Ethnobotanist - A 10-year-old girl interviews her well-known father who studies how forest people in the Amazon use plants for healing and more.

<http://www.units.muohio.edu/dragonfly/plants/plotkin.htmlx>

Plants-in-Motion - Short, stunning time-lapse movie clips of flowers unfurling, seeds germinating, leaves and stems responding to light, and more.

<http://plantsinmotion.bio.indiana.edu/plantmotion/starthere.html>

Plant Trivia Timeline - This online timeline begins in 8000 B.C. and offers highlights of people/plant connections through history.

<http://www.huntington.org/BotanicalDiv/Timeline.html>

Turning Kids on to Herbs - A bit of herbal history and instructions for creating aromatic products such as potpourri and salve.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/Dig/DigDetail.taf?ID=1683&Type=Art>

Sites Linked to Big Ideas from *How Plants Work* Exhibit

Big Idea #1: “Are Plants Like Us?”

How Many Plants Does It Take to Make a Big Mac®? - We barely see vegetables in a fast-food joint, so what do plants have to do with burgers? Have your students guess and then get the scoop.

<http://www.aspb.org/education/foundation/plantsinbigmac.pdf>

Big Idea #2: “A Puzzle of Plant Parts”

Dyeing to Find Out: Extracting Nature’s Colors - Details on how to make and use dyes in the classroom from homegrown and collected plants, and suggested curriculum connections.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/may03/pg1.html>

Fruit Classification - Photos and good background information. Vocabulary may be tough for some learners.

<http://theseedsite.co.uk/fruits.html>

Getting to Know the Common Dandelion - This PDF file features some cool facts, a great image, and details on the roles of different dandelion parts.

<http://www.anpc.ab.ca/assets/dandelion.pdf>

Great Plant Escape: Flowers - Engaging information for kids on flower structures.

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/gpe/tg/c4-background.html>

Making Paper: Experience the Fiber of Learning - How-to advice for using a blender and other simple materials to make paper and turning the process into a rich learning experience.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/nov02/pg1.html>

The New Zealand Curriculum Exemplars: Is a Tree a Plant? – This site has examples of children’s drawings to demonstrate how a child investigates and views the structure of a plant.

http://www.tki.org.nz/r/assessment/exemplars/sci/living/lw_2e_e.php

Big Idea #3: “The Green Machine”

Photosynthesis – Detailed breakdown of photosynthesis. Includes lots of diagrams and also has a section with review questions.

<http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookPS.html#Light>

Photosynthesis Quick Flick – This cartoon by Brain Pop and the National Geographic Society gives a nice synopsis of the photosynthesis process.

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngexplorer/0204/quickflicks/>

Science Made Simple: Autumn Leaves – This Web site deals specifically with photosynthesis and how it relates to autumnal leaves color change. It provides pared down versions of the photosynthesis process and several good related experiments.

<http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html>

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden “Green Machines: The Local and Global Power of Plants” – This is a continuing education unit on plant leaves and photosynthesis. It contains some good reference materials, including a vocabulary list.

http://www.fairchildgarden.org/index.cfm?section=education&subsection=aboutgreentreasures&page=downloadableteachingmodules#Green_Machines

Big Idea #4: “Surviving Against the Odds”

Biomes of the World - Rainforests, deserts, and other ecosystems are featured in this photo-rich kids' site from the Missouri Botanic Garden. Each biome has a section on plants and the adaptations that help them survive there.

<http://mbgnet.mobot.org/>

Plant Adaptation Up Close – This Web site from the Botanic Garden of Smith College provides html and pdf versions of the exhibit panels from their Plant Adaptation show. Provides a good synopsis and photos of 7 different plant adaptations.

http://www.smith.edu/garden/exhibits/plant_adaptation/topic&pdfs.html

Virtual Jungle - On this interactive Web site from the BBC, students can tour “layers” in a jungle for images and details on the remarkable adaptations that help jungle dwellers (plants and animals) survive.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/programmes/tv/jungle/vjungle.shtml>

Big Idea #5: “Plant Multiplication”

No Flowers? No Problem - This site for kids has descriptions and photos of moss, lichen, fungi, ferns, and algae.

http://www.rbg.ca/cbc/en/cbcn4kids/kid_noflower.htm

Photographic Plant/Pollinator Database - Dozens of wonderful close-up photos of pollinators engaging with flowers. Don't let the list of Latin names overwhelm you; just choose some to click on. You may want to select a batch of images to share with students.

http://www.pollinator.com/plant_pol/databaseindex.htm

Pollination Adaptations - How do bees see flowers? How do flower aromas lure flies? How does a hummingbird find a meal? You and your students will find some answers and cool photos here.

http://plantphys.info/Plants_human/pollenadapt.html

Why Do Plants Have Flowers? - An informative page for kids on what makes flowers tick.

<http://www.sacsplash.org/mather/flowers.htm>