

MOSS SAFARI

Flagellate plants have existed on our planet for a long time (~300 million years) and include approximately 30,000 species of bryophytes, lycophytes, ferns, and gymnosperms. These plants offer some important clues on how plants evolve and adapt. There are several ways to classify flagellate plants based on their genetic and morphological traits but one of their most unique features is the absence of flowers.

This activity was developed as an informal learning experience for 2nd grade students who participated in an optional afterschool enrichment activity offered by the school.

GRADE LEVEL

- Elementary (K-2)

*You can find additional activities for this and other age groups on [GoFlag Voyager](#).

DURATION

- 45-60 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the importance of plants to humankind
- Explore plants in their natural environment

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

- Ecosystem preservation
- Art (drawing)

INTRODUCTION

- Invite the kids for a walk around the school campus
- Ask the children to draw a plant in the sidewalk using colored chalk
- Discuss how we all have different drawings because plants can indeed be different. Discuss that despite some differences, all plants have some things in common too. Use this as a transition for the exploration activity.

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY

- Invite the kids to an area with lots of plants (e.g., by the creek)
- Ask children to look around and think about some differences and similarities between plants
- Ask children to closely examine the plants and use notecards to:
 - write at least 2 things that all plants have in common (one side of the card)
 - write 2 things that *only some* plants have (other side of the card)

REFLECTION

- Go back to another sidewalk and ask children to draw another plant based on what they saw during the exploration activity.
or...
- Go back to the same sidewalk and ask children to update their drawings based on what they saw during the exploration activity.

MATERIALS

- Assorted colors sidewalk chalk
- Index cards
- Pencils

Related Images



Costs: varies