



Greenburgh Nature Center

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PLANTS, OUR PARTNERS (GRADES 3-7) 90 MINUTES

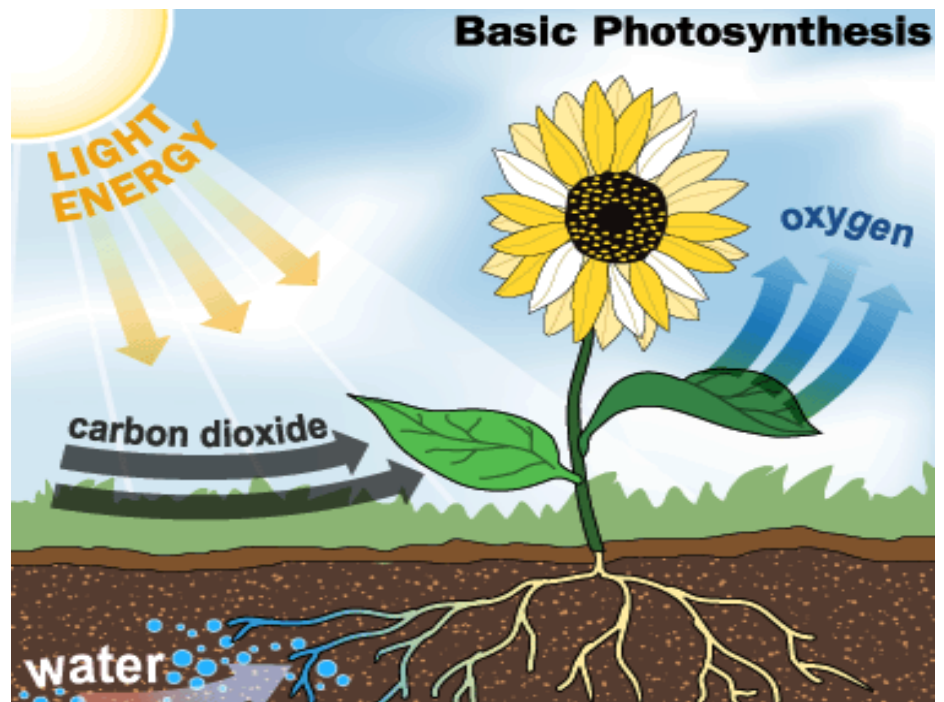
Children will observe the diversity of plant life and understand that plants, like animals, have unique needs and strategies for survival. In every season, an outdoor exploration adds to the understanding of plant ecology.

PROGRAM OUTLINE: THE BASICS

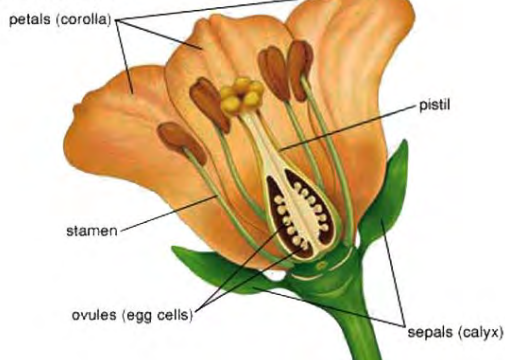
Time permitting, the program will include three activities in a study of seeds, flowers and leaves. The activities, a forest walk, making a window hanging and seed planting will help to reinforce the importance of plants. Each activity is geared to the grade level of the students.

WHAT DO PLANTS NEED?

sunlight
water
food
carbon dioxide
temperature



Parts of a Flower



WHAT ARE FLOWERS?

Seeds
in
the making!



ACTIVITY 1 - WINDOW HANGING

Students will collect **flowers from our grounds** and press them between a sheet of contact paper to make a classroom window hanging as we look at the importance of flowers.



ACTIVITY 2 - SEEDS

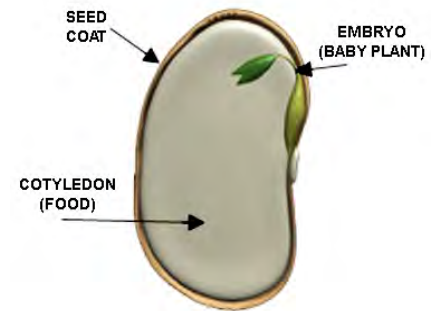


TOPIC - SEEDS/PROPAGATION

What are seeds?

All seeds contain a little plant called an **embryo**. The **seed coat** protects the embryo until it finds an appropriate place to grow, while the **cotyledon** provide the necessary food energy until roots and true leaves form.

Activity - Students will plant seeds (the three sisters - corn/beans/squash) in a peat plug to take back to school.



ACTIVITY 3 - FORESTS



TOPIC - FOREST

What is a forest?

A forest is a habitat where trees are the dominate plant. There are different types of forests. A deciduous forest is characterized by trees that seasonally shed their leaves. A coniferous or evergreen forest is made up of trees that don't lose their leaves in the winter and can start **photosynthesis** as soon as the weather gets warm. Many other plants and animals help to make up a forest ecosystem.

TOPIC - LEAVES

What are leaves?

Leaves make food for the plant in a process known as **photosynthesis**. Leaves come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors. Coniferous trees have long, thin, waxy leaves called needles. The wax gives them some protection from freezing temperatures and from drying out. The dark color of evergreen needles allows them to absorb heat from sunlight. In winter or in a dry season it becomes difficult for trees to maintain their water balance so instead of remaining actively growing during this time of the year the tree enters a dormant period.



Activity - Students will explore our forest and the variety of plants living there and see how leaves help plants to survive.

