

Unit: Native Plant Knowledge

Activity: Ancient Knowledge

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Activity time: 15 min. Prep time: 0 Review materials: 5 min.

Guiding Questions: How do people throughout history know about their plants?

Brief Description of Activity: A discussion about how native peoples worldwide knew how to identify and had detailed knowledge about the plants in their ecosystems. Discussion that in our society today we still have those skills for identification and survival knowledge but use them for other purposes. Children today can identify numerous business logos and know what they represent for our 'survival' in today's world. Students will participate in an interactive flash card game to reinforce this concept.

Materials: Logo/Plant Cards

Teacher Provided:

Activity

Discussion:

- **Discuss** how people historically knew how to ID plants and how they now have lost those skills. However, they can identify logos quite well. They say children can identify over 1000 logos by the time they are 12 but not even 7 native plants. Shall we see if this might be true?

Interactive Activity

- **Logo/Plant cards game:** Tell students they will use their observation skills to identify these individual cards, what they represent, how they are important to people and seasonal/time information (for example: Safeway- 24 hours/day, 365/yr; videos, China Express, groceries, etc).
- **Show Logo cards quickly one by one** (start with several logos) and discuss (with enthusiasm).
- **Show a Plant card** (at the same speed) and discuss (do not identify). Show more Logo cards, then a Plant card or two. If a student does recognize a plant this is evidence that people can learn to ID the same way we are able to ID logos. Discuss....
- **Why can we identify logos so well, but not plants?** Are we using the same observation skills that we would with plants? (shape, size, color, other details)
- Follow with the Plant Observation Skill activity or other Plant ID activity.