Unit: Native Plant Knowledge

Activity: Seasonal Native Plant ID Walk

Developed by: Heidi Bohan
Activity Length: 30 min. Prep time: 0. Review materials- reconnaissance for walk: estimate 15 min.

Guiding Questions: Can we use our ID skills to learn to identify 7 native plants in our ecosystem?

Description of Activity: Students will look for at least 7 native plants on school grounds, will learn their key field ID characteristics to help them easily identify native plants on their own.

Materials: School Grounds Map with suggested seasonal walk course; Key Field Characteristics master (Fall/ Winter or Spring); Interesting Facts and Props

Teacher Provided: “Plants of the Pacific Northwest” Pojar and Mackinnon

Activity

- Take students on the suggested seasonal walk course on the School Grounds Map.
- Take class to a plant species listed on the Seasonal Walk sheet.
- Use the seasonally appropriate Key Field Characteristics work sheet, and “Plants of the Pacific Northwest” to describe the key plant ID characteristics of each of these plants (note that the key field characteristics are marked in bold in the “Plants of the Pacific Northwest”)
- Use the “Interesting Facts & Props” to share information to help students create memory associations with the plant and it’s name.
- Students can take notes, draw sketches, and/or do leaf rubbings (see Leaf Rubbing activity) to help remember these plants and their key field characteristics.
- Repeat for at least 6 other plants.

This activity could be modified as a scavenger hunt by making duplicates of the master Key Field Characteristics sheet and having students use them to find one or all of the plants.

Use the Plant Scramble Game as a way to reinforce this activity, or use this activity to follow the Plant Scramble Game. Students need a variety of opportunities, and methods to remember plant ID.