**Outdoor Plant Hunt**

**Overview:** Students observe plants and their surrounding environment, paying close attention to aspects of the shared habitat and what enables plants to grow. They will use science notebooks to make drawings and record their observations. They will think about what aspects of the environment help the plant survive and grow.

**Guiding Questions:**

K-2: Where do plants grow? What features of a plants environment help it grow?

3-6: How are plants the same, how are they different?

**Learning goals:**

* Develop and hone observation and recording skills by drawing a plant/plants and noticing features of its immediate environment.
* Understand how their schoolyard is a habitat for plants.
* Observe how plants vary
* Use their observations to discuss what plants need to survive and how the environment provides for a plant’s needs.

**Vocabulary:**

Plant

Habitat

Environment

Survive

**Activity:**

* Introduction

Present guiding question, connect to prior knowledge about plant needs and habitats. Give instructions

* Outdoor activity

Students will find 2-3 plants in the schoolyard and answer the questions below in their science notebooks. This can be done in pairs, but each student needs to record in their own notebooks.

🡪 Draw a picture of the plant in the science notebook (remember the ABCDE of

 notebook drawings – Accurate, Big, Colorful, Detailed, Explained)

🡪 Where does this plant live? (ex. sidewalk crack, in the grass)

🡪 Describe features of the environment (ex. in the shade, sunny spot, dry area)

* Classroom Debrief-

🡪Share findings in small groups-share drawings and observations, discuss guiding questions.

🡪Whole Group discussion:

make a list of shared features of the environment on the board

discuss what does a plant need to survive

define habitat

**Variations:**

* Assign students to find different kinds of plants: trees, grass, shrubs
* Send different pairs to different areas of the schoolyard
* Conduct as scavenger hunt to look for (for e.g.) leaves of different shapes or plants of different sizes
* See OBIS Plant Hunt Activity