

# Meet A Plant!

## 🌱 An Outdoor Exploration in Novel Ecosystems 🌱

**Materials Needed:** Paper, pencil or pen, mobile writing surface such as a clipboard, book, piece of cardboard, or notebook, ability to watch the accompanying video.

### Activity 1: Go Outside!

- It's time to go outside. Be sure you've checked in with an adult and make sure you have everything you need.
- **Go out in your yard or neighborhood and look for plants!** Take a few minutes and notice all the different kinds of plants growing around you.
- As you explore, think about whether or not you think the plants you see are supposed to be growing where they are.
- Do you notice any plants growing in unexpected places? (for example, the cracks in a sidewalk?)

### Activity 2: Meet a Plant!

- Step 1: Pick one of the plants you've observed and stand 10 feet away from it.
- Use a sheet of paper to draw the plant and write down things you notice about it on your own piece of paper, or on the observation template. Spend a few minutes doing this.
- Step 2: Now, move very close to your plant, about 1 inch to 1 foot away from it.
- Write down anything new you notice about it, and draw your plant close up. Spend a few minutes recording your observations.

#### **TIPS FOR OBSERVATION!**

Look not only at the plant itself, but at what is next to it as well. Is it near rocks? Other plants? Human-made buildings or sidewalks? Include its surroundings in your drawing and written observations.



When you draw your plant, try to draw what you actually see, not what you think you should see.



It doesn't matter if you don't consider yourself a good artist. Drawing can help us notice things we didn't notice before. Labeling parts of our drawing can help make what we are trying to draw clearer.

### **Activity 3: What is an ecosystem?**

- You will need to be able to watch our video about ecosystems for this activity.
- If you are in a comfortable spot and you have a phone or computer to watch the video, you can stay outside. Otherwise, you can go back to your home for the rest of the activity.
- Check out our video!

### **Activity 4: Draw your plant comic!**

- Step 1: Think about the plant you just observed.
  - How do you think it got there?
  - What resources does it need to survive?
  - Is it in a good spot to get those resources?
  - How do the other living and non-living things in the ecosystem affect the life of your plant?
  - Does your plant have any effect on the ecosystem around it?
- Step 2: On a new sheet of paper, or on the comic template, draw a comic about your plant.
  - Tell a story about how you think it got to where it is
  - OR, draw what a day in the life of your plant looks like
- Try to capture its interactions with at least one other part of the ecosystem. You can even incorporate yourself into the story!

### **Activity 5: Reflection**

- Now imagine that your plant suddenly disappeared. What would change in your comic?
- Now imagine that you disappeared? Would anything change in the life of your plant? What if all humans disappeared?

Bonus!: Go back out next week and check on the plant you observed! Has anything changed?




