



Nature-Watch

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Plant Life

1. Skill Builders (2)

- a. "In order for plants to absorb nutrients well, the soil has to have proper pH. Use a kit to test your soil. How do you adjust the soil for the types of plants you want to grow?"
- b. Rich soil that drains well is important to plants. Determine how well your soil drains water. What do you need to do to improve the soil?
- c. "Plan & plant a garden with at least 3 kinds of foods. Prepare the soil before planting. Arrange the garden for maximum sunlight or shade. Water, fertilize & weed your garden when possible."

Recommended Products:

[Sprout & Grow Greenhouse \(#414g\)](#)

[Sprout & Grow Window \(#414w\)](#)

- d. Visit a supermarket or distribution point for fruits & vegetables. Where did they come from? Create a geography game or scavenger hunt for younger girls.
- e. Start 3 new plants without using seeds.
- f. Compare traditional chemical pest control methods with natural ones. What are the advantages & disadvantages?

2. Technology (1)

- a. "Make a list of gardening tools & materials needed to grow plants. Find out what they are used for, what they are made of and why."

Recommended Products:

[Gardening Supplies](#)

- b. "Visit a web site, library or botanical garden for information on growing plants hydroponically. Grow a plant hydroponically at home or school."
- c. "Tofu used to be found in the refrigerator section at the store. Now, these items are sitting right on the shelf. Discover the technology used to keep these items from spoiling."
- d. Learn about different kinds of watering tools & equipment. Which uses the least amount of water?
- e. "Scientists are trying to "improve" on nature. Select 3 fruits & vegetables & find out why they have undergone genetic engineering. Buy one and compare its taste to the regular kind if possible."

3. Service Projects (1)

- a. "Help turn a vacant lot into an "oasis" by landscaping it. Or start a community vegetable garden."
- b. "With partner or troop, plant an area with native vegetation that will provide food or shelter for birds."
- c. Plant a community butterfly garden. Plan a garden that will bloom over an extended period of time.

Recommended Products:

[Butterfly Kits \(#405\)](#)



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- d. Grow or help harvest food for a community food bank. Or organize local gardeners to contribute their surplus to a food bank.
- e. "With your parks dept., plant trees or plants to help prevent erosion."
- 4. Career Exploration (1)
 - a. Learn about at least 1 career related to plants. Interview or shadow someone in the career.
 - b. Visit a garden especially created for people with disabilities. What factors were considered in designing this space.
 - c. Have you admired plants in an office building? Volunteer to take care of the plants in 1 or more of these places.
 - d. Flower arrangements add beauty. Try your hand at creating botanical art by making flower baskets or gifts out of dried flowers.
 - e. "Health-related facilities have developed horticultural therapy programs. Under the guidance of a trained adult, assist in a program & find out how & why it works."