

Drawing and Identifying Plants Near Your Home

Things that you need are a sheet of paper, a pencil, and camera if you'd like to take photos

- Go outside and look around your yard or take a short walk near your home. Find a plant that you are interested in.
- Draw the plant and its habitat (where you would find it). Draw a stick figure of a person next to the plant to give your plant a sense of scale. In the drawing put in details that could help you identify the plant such as the leaves, stem, and flowers if there are these features. Your drawing doesn't have to be "perfect," just give enough information so that someone can use your picture to identify some of the details and the location where to find it. Pay attention to the leaf shape (is it long and skinny, round, have bumpy edges or are they sharp? Is the leaf fuzzy?) What type of stem does it have (woody stem hard to the touch or soft and squishy)? Take a picture if you can.
- Write 2-3 sentences describing where the plant is found (i.e., is it found in a wet or dry area, in the shade or sun, what type of soils (such as sand, gravel, or by asphalt, was it found on flat ground or on a hill?).
- Now see if you can identify the plant with the help of your parents or search online if you have that option. One website that can help is <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/> Here are some questions to help.
 - ★ Do you think it is a grass, a tree, a shrub, or a flowering plant?
 - ★ Do you think it is a native plant or a non-native plant?
 - ★ Can you, your parents or elders name the plant? Try to find the common name, or Spanish name, or scientific name
 - ★ Does the plant have any traditional uses or food? Have you seen any animals using it?

~ turn over ~



Drawing and Identifying Plants - page 2

On a separate paper or below this text, make a drawing of the plant:

Write 2-3 sentences about the plant and where you found it:

Best guess at the name of plant you drew (common name, Spanish name, scientific names):

