

Map Your Yard



Have you ever wondered the names of all the plants that inhabit your yard? Did you know there are apps that help you identify plants and bugs? In this activity you will use an app on your smart phone to identify the names of all the different plants in your yard and create a map of where they are located.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A yard (or a local park)
- A smartphone
- 1 large piece of white paper
- A notebook
- Markers, crayons or colored pencils



HOW TO:

- Download (with an adult's permission) a plant identifier app onto a smartphone. (*Free options include PlantNet, PlantSnap and GardenAnswers.*)
- Using the app, go around your yard and try to identify the plants (trees, flowers, bushes, grass, weeds, etc.) you find. Most apps involve using the camera on your device to take a photo of the plant.
- Bring your notebook or large piece of paper to record where all your plants are located and what their names are. You can do a rough map in a notebook first. You can also start with the blank graphing sheet on page 20. Then use the information you've collected to make a final larger map with colored pictures of the plants.
- Most plants will have a common name and a scientific name. You can write down one or both.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

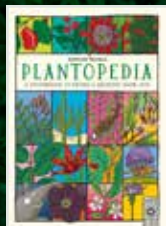


While you are walking around your yard, you might start to notice where plants like to grow and areas where nothing or only a few plants are growing. Some plants require a lot of sunlight, while others may only require a little sun each day. Plants also require water to grow. You can learn in apps how to best care for your plants too! With technology at the tips of your fingers, you can learn a lot. And if you can't find the information you need, that's where knowing a friendly librarian comes in handy!

Fun Fact



Over 50% of the state of Michigan is covered in forests.



Related Books:

- *Plantopedia: A Celebration of Nature's Greatest Show-Offs* by Adrienne Barman
- *Science Comics: Trees: Kings of the Forest* by Andy Hirsch
- *Plants* by Bridget Heos