



**CENTER FOR
INVASIVE PLANT
MANAGEMENT**

Lesson:

Plant Investigation

Ages:

6th-8th grade

Time:

Activity: 30-40 minutes

Write-up: 60 minutes (could be homework)

Overview:

Students closely examine and investigate two plants for a short report.

Goals:

Students will have a deeper understanding of a native and non-native plant and what the relationship is between the two plants.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to name and identify a native and non-native plant.
2. Students will be able to describe three important features of the plants.
3. Students will be able to relate the history of the plants in writing.

Materials:

Per three or four students:

A local noxious weed (or a detailed picture)

A native plant affected by the weed (or a detailed picture)

Local field guide to plants

Local guide to weeds

Weed pamphlets from the local weed district

Plant Investigation worksheets

Outline:

1. Students observe plants.
2. Students research plants and fill out worksheets.

3. Students write a short report about their plants.

Details:

Students may work alone or in groups of three or four to identify and describe a native and non-native plant. Encourage the students to be as detailed and as exact as they can. This is a scientific investigation of two particular plants that requires close attention and scrutiny. Ask the students to use the reference materials and their own observation skills to answer the questions on the Plant Investigation worksheets.

Wrap-up/Evaluation:

Discuss some of the differences between the two plants with the students. Ask them what adaptations are helpful or inhibiting for each of the plants and how the two plants affect each other. Next have the students write short reports describing what they learned about the plants.

Modifications:

Students may design a poster that compares the two plants. The posters should include as much information from the worksheets as possible. These posters can be presented to the class. This modification works best if different students observed different plants.