



**Lesson:**

Tagging Race

**Ages:**

3rd-5th grade

**Time:**

Set up: 5-20 minutes (Depending on whether activity is done inside or outside.)

Activity: 30-40 minutes

**Overview:**

Students will compete in groups to identify noxious weeds.

**Goals:**

Students will gain practice in identifying plant parts to recognize specific weeds.

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to recognize three weeds.
2. Students will discern differences in weeds quickly.
3. Students will evaluate their peers' weed recognition.

**Materials:**

For each group:

*If inside*

Pressed samples of 4-6 weed species - enough sets to allow one set for every 3-4 students in the class

Color pictures of same weeds, identified by name - same number of sets as above

Flagging tape with each weed species written on a different piece

Magnifying glasses or hand lenses

*If outside*

Flagging tape to mark off identification areas

Color pictures of four weeds found in local area.

Four pieces of flagging tape with a different weed species written of each piece

Magnifying glasses or hand lenses

**Outline:**

Groups of students race to tag weeds quickly and accurately.

**Details:**

*If Inside*

Divide the students into groups of three or four. Lay out sets of pressed weed samples in different areas of the classroom. Designate a group of weeds for each group of students to identify using the color pictures provided. Be sure students closely examine the leaves, stem and root of the plants, as well as the flower. The students have 10-15 minutes to accurately tag their plants with the correct name. After the tagging session points are tallied. For each correctly tagged plant, the group gains two points. The students may look at plants tagged by other groups and can "challenge" the other groups tags. If the challengers are right, their group gets two extra points while the challenged group loses two points. If the challengers are wrong, they lose points while the challenged group gains points.

*If outside*

Divide the students into groups of three or four and give each group a set of pictures of plants they must identify in a field that has been marked off with a section for each group. The students have 10-15 minutes to identify and accurately tag their plants using the color pictures provided. After the tagging session points are tallied. For each correctly tagged plant, the group gains two points. The students may look at plants tagged by other groups and can "challenge" the other groups tags. If the challengers are right, their group gets two extra points while the challenged group loses two points. If the challengers are wrong, they lose points while the challenged group gains points.

**Wrap-up/Evaluation:**

Discuss with the students what parts of the plants they used to identify the weeds and how the weeds looked different from other plants. The students may draw a picture of one or more of the weeds they identified and label the plants' parts.

**Extension:**

Discuss how these weeds impact the ecosystem. Discuss control strategies. Experiment with control in the study area.