

Lesson: Plant ID Learning Activity for Weed Pulling

Grades K-2, 3-5, MS, HS, College, Adult

This lesson is a self-guided activity for all students and adults.



- Take a bucket, dishpan, waste basket, trug or other container that will hold weeds.
- Pick a specific weed you want removed and tape it to the edge of the container, using masking or painters tape.
- Hand the container to the volunteer and ask them to identify the weed.
- If they cannot do so, ask them what they notice about the weed (i.e. pointy leaves, flower, stem thickness, etc),
- Take them to the section of garden that you want weeded, and ask them to find a sample of the same weed there.
- Ask them to remove the weed, being sure they know to remove the root.
- Send them on their way. But oversee the younger ones as needed.
- Do this for different weeds and different students/volunteers.
- Set a timer for 15 minutes or however long you want them to work.
- At the end of the time, have them show you their weeds and count them.
- Pull out any mistakes and count those.

- Do the math to show them their percent accuracy!
- Award the best performer with a taste of something from the garden!
- Dump the weeds in your compost bin or green bin. Swap!

Questions to ask:

- What are weeds?
- Why do we want to remove weeds?
- What do you look at to tell one weed from another?
- What should we do with the weeds after we pull them?
- Do you see any weeds that you think are really pretty?
- Do weeds feed any animals, insects, or birds?
- Do you think any of the weeds you pull are native plants?
- If you think so, should you pull them anyways?

From John Fisher, LifeLab.org

(See more at <https://www.lifelab.org/resources/maintaining-your-garden?rq=weeds>)