

Barefoot in the Cove
Identifying Plants
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Overview: Basic knowledge of botany and what grows in the Cove area. Identifying plants that are native or invasive to the area.

Objectives: Students will have an understanding of botany and the difference between invasive and native plants. Identify them by site by pictures from the field guide.

Key Concepts: Food Webs, Predator-Prey Relations, Ecological Niches, etc.
Subjects: Social Studies, biology, Ecology, Geography, Botany, etc.
Duration: 4 class periods (80 minutes)
Setting: In the field, outdoor natural landscape
Season: Spring – early, just at budburst
Interdisciplinary Connections
Frameworks:

Environmental Education @ the Cove River Site, and other coastal Connecticut settings.



*Produced by the Graduate Students in
Environmental Education EVE 546 Spring 2009*



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Introduction | Engagement: Native Americans had a vast knowledge of medicinal plants and their uses. They taught the white settlers in Colonial time about healing wounds, and making childbirth safer. To welcome new

Materials: The materials needed for this lesson are:

- Field guide book by Duke and Foster

Preparation: Handout a copy of the Peterson Field Guides to be used while at the Cove site. Begin picking out simple common plants and identify them in the book.

Explanation: Native American Indian culture is a large factor when it comes to discovering various plants that were introduced to the white man for medicinal purposes as well as for other means plants could be used.

Explore: This lesson will explore the Cove for its natural flora and identify them in the book. Students will split off into 2 groups and using their books identify as many plants as possible. Create a game out of this exercise;

Activity #1: Walk through the Cove and try to identify species from the book that are growing in Cove. Identify by common name and then learn the scientific name.

Evaluation: Randomly choose a plant from the Cove and have them identify the characteristics of the plants and is it invasive or native.

Reference:

[A Handbook of Native American Herbs, Hutchens, Alma R.](#)

[Peterson's Field for Wild Plants Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants,](#)

[Duke, James A; Foster, Steven
http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mqmh/d/](#)

<http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/pwatch/tarax01.htm>

<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art1904.asp>

http://www.culinarycare.com/Sauces-Marinades/Dandelion_Jelly.html

<http://www.wildmanstevebrill.com/Plants.Folder/Dandelion.html>