

Herbarium Sheets

Learn about scientists who study plants, and create your own herbarium sheet!

Outside activity

Indoor activity

Printable pages

Art activity

Sensory activity

Movement activity

Music or song

Materials

- Paper, tape or glue, plant materials (and/or magazines), printable labels

Introduction

Scientists learn about plants by studying what they look like, and when and how they grow. A *botanist* is a scientist that studies plants. Botanists *mount*, or attach, dried plants onto paper. These are called *herbarium sheets*. They make these sheets to keep plants in a collection, like at the Field Museum, so other scientists can study them.

Activity

- Gather plant materials from your home or your yard.
- *Please remember to respect your neighbors!*
Do not take plants that do not belong to you or that you are unsure of what they are.
- Check out this blog post to learn what plants to avoid.
- Tape or glue the plant to a piece of paper.
- Write an information label. Print out ours, or write your own! This will include:
- Common Name: The name of the plant

- Location: Where did you find the plant?
- Collected by: You! Write your name here
- Date: The date the plant was collected
- Attach the information label to the herbarium sheet.
- Use your herbarium sheet to answer these questions:
- What do you think we can learn about this plant?
- How does it smell?
- What color is it?
- Where did you find it?
- Does it have leaves, seeds or flowers?
- How does it feel?
- Botanists usually dry their plants before making herbarium sheets. Why do you think that is?

Expand

- Take what you learned outside! Try and listen for local bird calls and songs. Do they sound like the ones you listened to in this activity? If so, which ones? If not, how were they different? If you can't go outside, try listening through an open window!
- Do you know of other kinds of birds? How do they sound? Visit www.xeno-canto.org to find out!

At the Field

- Explore the Field Museum's *Plants of the World* exhibit on your next visit.



Herbarium sheets

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This photo showcases the Field Museum's Botany collections specimens and storage. Field Museum Botanist Christine Niezgoda is pictured here with an example of a herbarium sheet.

PlayLab At Home



An example of an herbarium sheet created by one of our Learning Center staff.

Herbarium sheets

Print these labels and fill them out to attach to your herbarium sheet.

Common Name:	_____
Location:	_____
Collected By:	_____
Date:	_____

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