Plant Identification Project

The following project may take a few days to complete; therefore, it is a good idea to begin working on it as soon as you have familiarized yourself with concepts and terms that appear in the table below. Be sure to complete the assignment thoroughly and identify any references used in APA format. Remember, be as creative as you wish and have fun with this project! Submit your completed project to the Plant Identification Project dropbox.

Have you ever taken a walk through your neighborhood and really paid attention to the amazing variety of plant life? If not, you will now! This activity will get you outside and increase your awareness of the tremendous variation in the divisions, classes, and families of plants that you encounter on a regular basis.

For this project, you will increase your awareness of the tremendous variation in the divisions, classes, and families of plants that you encounter on a regular basis by identifying and classifying different species of plants.

Take a walk around your yard, neighborhood, or park, and look closely at every plant you encounter. As you walk, make a pictorial collection of plants in your neighborhood. If possible, take along a digital camera to photograph the individual plants. Having a digital image of specimens will aid in identifying them after you have returned from the walk. You can also use the photographs in your project presentation. If you are unable to take your own photographs, make a sketch of the plants and find appropriate images online to use in your presentation. For each plant picture you collect, you will need to identify the plant as one of the four divisions. Then, if the plant is an angiosperm, determine whether it is a monocot or a dicot. Next, use your resources to find the common and scientific name for each plant. Don't forget to include in your notes where your found each plant!

If you live in a city environment, you might need to visit a park or a suburban neighborhood with a friend or family member to complete this activity. **Always be safe, working in areas where you will be out of harm's way!**

Create a table and use it to collect and organize information. The table may look something like this:

	Bryophytes (mosses)	Tracheophytes (ferns)	Gymnosperms (conifers)	Angiosperms (flowering plants) monocots	Angiosperms (flowering plants) dicots
Pictures of specimens	At least 2	At least 2	At least 3	At least 5	At least 8
Common name					
Scientific name					
Location					

After you collect all of your data and research, decide how you would like to present your neighborhood plant community catalog. There are a variety of ways to share your catalog. You may create a flow chart using tools such as Dia and Gliffy, generate a concept map using resources such as CMap, FreeMind, the free version of XMind, make a presentation using a number of tools like Animoto, PowerPoint, or OpenOffice's equally useful and free Impress component. You may even wish develop an original means to present your project. Whatever you decide, when creating your catalog, you must include the information that is included in the table above for each plant and be sure to review the rubric before you submit your final project. Consider creating a different section in your project presentation for each division.

Rubric

	Bryophytes (mosses)	Tracheophytes (ferns)	Gymnosperms (conifers)	Angiosperms (flowering plants) monocots	Angiosperms (flowering plants) dicots
Picture of specimens (2 points each)	At least 2	At least 2	At least 3	At least 5	At least 8
Common name (1 pt each)					
Scientific name (1 pt each)					
Location (1 pt each)					
Points Possible	10	10	15	25	40
Points Earned					