MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

July 2023 – Botany

Indoor activity: Garden Cress Glass Jars

Most plant species need a mixture of light, water, air, nutrients, and soil to prosper. However, some plants have the ability to bypass all of those necessities and flourish only using light and water as a resource.

Cress plants can germinate on cotton wool! This plant species does not need the extra nutrients from soil because it stores its own small supply of nutrients, making it self-sufficient. It gets all the nutrients it needs from its natural nutrient supplies, water, and sunlight.

Materials:

- Cress seeds
- Small Glass Jar
- Cotton balls
- Spray bottle for water
- Googly eyes
- Markers

Procedure:

1. Decorate your jar.
2. Fill jar to the top with cotton balls.
3. Sprinkle seeds on top of the cotton balls
4. Lightly spray your seeds with water.
5. Place your jar in a spot where it will get the most sunlight.
6. Remember to lightly spray your seeds 3 times a day.
7. Observe plant growth!

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Outdoor Activity: Fauna Field Guide

Materials:

- Notebook
- Pen
- Plant Taxonomy Chart

Activity:

1. Go to your local park or walk around your neighborhood and observe different types of plants.
2. Use your notebook to take notes. (Draw pictures, label noticeable parts of each plant. Take into consideration colors, fruit, seeds, etc.)
3. Use your Plant Taxonomy Chart to categorize each type of plant.
4. Do your best to find 2 or 3 plants that fit under the 4 main groups presented on your chart.

Basic Plant Taxonomy

- Non-Vascular plants (bryophytes) are usually found low to the ground and has structures that look like roots, stems or leaves. (moss)
- Vascular plants usually have a trunk, roots, leaves, ad stems. They also produce either seeds or spores.
- Plants that produce spores (Pterophytes) and no cones or seeds are called ferns.
- Plants that do produce seeds can be broken down into two groups. (cones or flowers)
- Plants that produce cones are called Gymnosperms.
- Plants that produce flowers are called Angiosperms.