

The Plant Fairy

CBSE, EVS, Grade 3, Lesson 2

Objectives: To observe and identify plants and their parts. To know about the classification of plants. To understand the diversity of plants

Activity 1: We played the plant fairy game with one girl playing the role of the fairy. She would name objects in the room and students would run and touch those objects. After this, students were taken to the garden to play this game with plants and trees.

We started discussing any differences we see in the flowers and leaves. They noted that while most leaves are green in colour, they have different shapes, they have different kinds of margin and different plants have different types of stems too.

Students asked why the stem of a banyan tree grows outside the main trunk. I explained to them that they are in fact roots that grow from the trunk to support the expanding tree. They keep growing till they reach the ground and grip on the soil. By this time they start looking like a trunk by itself.

Reflection: By this exposure the students learn about the diverse size /color/ patterns of leaves, stem and roots. Students are also able to ask questions freely and find answers which would not have been possible inside the classroom.

Activity 2: Then I showed a video, 'the story of a seed'. A farmer carrying packages of seeds in which one pocket had a hole and many seeds are dropped on the ground. Among them one seed falls and rolls into a garden. After heavy rain and sunlight the seed grows into a plant. A student pointed out that this is because a



Observation of school garden

seed can only grow in muddy surface and not in concrete surface. This helped us discuss the role of soil, water and sunlight in the growth of the plant. We also discussed the concept of living and non-living and came up with a list of things living beings can do - eating, growing, reproducing, etc. Some students still had doubts about whether a tree is living or non-living. I explained that 'since it grows tall, produces flowers, vegetables, etc., a tree is living. Also when a branch of a tree is cut, it decays and its appearance changes within a day. But if a leg of a bench breaks, it doesn't undergo such a change.' Students then agreed that trees and plants are living things.

Reflection: The students were able to understand that soil, water and sunlight are needed to make a seed grow into plant. After this, the students themselves planted some seeds in a plastic container. They are observing the growth of the plant in stages.

Activity 3: I explained the kind of plants based on their stem. Trees such as banyan, mango tree have a hard stem; plants like rose and

chrysanthemum have thin stems, coriander and grass have very thin stems. I used flashcards to show them the plants with different types of stem. Then the students pasted the flash cards on a chart ordering them based on the stem thickness.

Reflection: Through this activity, students learnt that trees, herbs, shrubs are grouped according to the size and thickness of stem.

Activity 4: I gave the students pictures of a variety of trees and plants. Students identified the plants that are used as food. Eg: They pointed to mango tree which gives mango vegetable and fruit. I also explained that not only trees, but also shrubs like tomato, brinjal plants are a source of food.

Activity 5: Students shaded the shapes of leaves with the help of pencil. By this activity, the students got on hand experience and learned about the diversity in leaf shapes and



also the different patterns.

Activity 6: A PowerPoint presentation was used to reinforce the concepts of parts of plant, their diversities and variations. This was useful and engaging for the students. They came to know about plants, their parts, their shape and pattern and the diversity of plants. By showing real pictures of plants, the students eagerly participated and reflected.



Activity 7: I took the students for a village field trip around Vaduvakuppam and guided them to observe various trees and plants. The students looked at the banyan tree and recalled the discussion about the roots supporting its weight. They also discussed the shape and pattern of the leaves, stem thickness, etc. It was clear that students have immersed into the concepts of the lesson. Then I showed weaver bird's nest in palm tree and explained how trees are useful for many birds and animals. It was a good and rich experience.



A. Santhosh Kumar, PST
GPS Vaduvakuppam