NAME _____

Make Hybrid Connections

Earth is home to more than 390,000 plant species! They have specific traits, many of which are useful in a plant hybrid. Imagine that you are a horticulture professional traveling the world to research amazing plants and their flowers and fruits. Record the characteristics of four unique plants in the space below.

Plant name:

Region/location:

Climate and habitat:

Characteristics:

How could this plant be used in a hybrid to solve a problem or social need?

Plant name:

Region/location:

Climate and habitat:

Characteristics:

How could this plant be used in a hybrid to solve a problem or social need?

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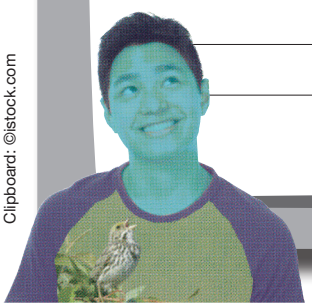

Plant Mash-Up!

DEADLINE MARCH 7, 2022

INSTRUCTIONS Consider the characteristics of two existing plants and use them to create your own plant mash-up with new qualities. You can use any plant you can think of, but here are some to get you started. Make sure your final thoughts all fit on this page!

Mint

- Underground stems help prevent soil erosion
- Fragrant and tasty leaves contain vitamin A and antioxidants
- Calms muscles to help treat an upset stomach and aid digestion

Olive Tree

- Thrives in hot places; provides shelter for birds and small animals
- Olive fruits can be cured for tasty eating
- Consuming olive oil may reduce the risk of heart disease

Anise Hyssop

- Adapted to dry soils so can tolerate drought
- Attracts pollinators, especially bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds
- Tasty leaves have a licorice-like scent and flavor

Cucumber Vine

- Fast-growing vining plant; grows well in wet soils
- Cucumber fruit is easy to harvest when the vine is grown on a trellis or support wire
- A delicious source of nutrition and hydration

Sea Thrift

- Grows well in infertile, dry, well-drained soils
- Is adapted to life in saline (salty) conditions, such as coastal areas
- Excellent for preventing erosion on steep, sandy slopes

Big Blue Stem Grass

- Tall grasses provide nesting materials for birds and small animals
- Has beautiful blue-green stems and large pink flowering heads
- Deep roots help resist drought

Name the two plants you are combining:

1._____ **2.**_____

Name the challenge: _____

Illustrate your hybrid below:

In the space below, describe the features of your hybrid and how it will help your community.

Student Name: _____ Student Grade: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Teacher Email: _____

School Name: _____ School Address: _____

School City/State/Zip: _____

RUBRIC

Plant Mash-Up Contest!

Rubric + Judging Criteria

The rubric below describes a successful project. Plan for success by referring to it throughout your creative process as you outline, write, and edit your work. The contest judges will use these criteria to pick winners. Your teacher may also use this sheet to grade your work.

CRITERIA What does a winning entry look like?	**Possible Points**	**Points Earned**
1. Description: How well does the description explain: • the two plant sources of the hybrid • the hybrid's features • how the hybrid will benefit others (such as by addressing a specific challenge)	40	
2. Drawing: How well does the drawing represent the hybrid? Does the drawing clearly include features from both original plants?	30	
3. Creativity: How creative is the selection of the plant sources? How creative is the way the hybrid benefits the community (and addresses a challenge)?	30	
TOTAL POINTS	**100**	