Developing Plant Presentations

Guide students to explore digital interactive plant resources, then develop original presentations about the power of plants.

OBJECTIVE

Students will:

✔ Analyze different forms of media
✔ Extract information from several media formats
✔ Develop their own informational presentations

TIME

30 minutes plus work time

MATERIALS

✔ Plant Power! activity sheet
✔ Digital module at scholastic.com/bloom/plantpower

Optional:

✔ The Surprising World of Horticulture poster
✔ Make Your Community Bloom poster

1. Tell students that they will be creating an informational presentation about plants, but first, they will consider the qualities of different media in order to choose the format of their presentation—while learning more about plants.

2. Introduce the Plant Power online module, which mixes information (about plants) and entertainment (to engage the audience). Go through each of the three components as a class and then discuss:

   VIDEO: The “Plant Power!” video presents information through visual and audio engagement. Bright graphics and animation illustrate the topics while the upbeat narrator and the quick-paced editing make the video entertaining. The narration also frequently addresses the viewer directly, which enhances engagement.

   At this stage, distribute the Plant Power! activity sheet, which acts as a video study guide. Have students fill in the blanks and break out into their group discussions.

   INTERACTIVE DIAGRAM: The diagram “Peek Inside a Plant” presents information through interaction. The user is required to focus on specific parts of the diagram to direct the flow of information. The diagram also enhances comprehension by providing detailed views of a plant.

   QUIZ: The “What’s Your Plant-Ability” quiz tests students’ knowledge while delivering extra information. While the quiz is an assessment tool, it also delivers additional topic details via the thoughtful answer choices and offers a platform for critical thinking.

3. Prompt students to discuss the pros and cons—as they see them—of the different formats used in the digital module. Encourage them to provide examples of features that they found helpful or not helpful for their learning.

4. Extend this conversation to guide students to analyze different media formats, such as videos, books, blogs, audiobooks, websites, and podcasts. For example:

   VIDEOS: Pros—entertaining, engaging, dynamic, images are explanatory, audio/video combination; cons—often not as information-rich as other media, can be difficult to absorb.

   BOOKS: Pros—rich in information, reader controls pace, usually well structured (chapters, sections, etc.), can be dynamic and engaging if well written; cons—requires more attention and focus than many other forms of media.

5. Tell students that now that they have considered the qualities of different media, they will create their own informational presentation. Challenge them to summarize and synthesize the information in the digital plant module (or another trustworthy source, if desired) and present it in their own original and exciting format. Explain that their presentations can be written in one of four formats (or another format they clear with their teacher):

   ▶ A blog post by a green-collar worker
   ▶ A transcript of a podcast in which an interviewer talks with a green-collar worker (horticulturalist)
   ▶ A short story in which the topics are part of the plot
   ▶ A script for a short video

LOW-TECH ALTERNATIVE

Use the posters The Surprising World of Horticulture as well as Make Your Community Bloom to expose students to key plant facts. Then have them present what they learned in their own original poster or in another format.

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NAME _______________________________

**Plant Power!**

Today, videos are at our fingertips. Some are short, some are long. Some are silly, some are serious. This form of media can be a great learning tool. A good nonfiction video (sometimes called a documentary) can hold an immense amount of information while also being fun and engaging. Now watch the video Plant Power! on scholastic.com/bloom and fill in the blanks below.

**VIDEO STUDY GUIDE**

1) Fossils from the oldest plants date from ___________ years ago.

2) An explosion of plant life hundreds of millions of years ago produced ___________, which allows us to breathe today.

3) Plant roots hold soil in place, which helps to prevent ___________.

4) Animals need plants for ___________ and ___________.

5) Plants provide us with everyday necessities like ___________, ___________, ___________, ___________, and ___________.

6) Plants utilize ___________ from the air during photosynthesis and release ___________, which we need to live.

7) While many insects need flowers for food, flowers need ___________ to carry out the pollination they need to create new ___________.

8) The art, science, technology, and business of growing plants is known as _________________.

9) People who work in horticulture are known as _________________.

10) Earth has almost ___________ species of plants.

**VIDEO DISCUSSION**

Gather in small groups to discuss the video. Make a list of ecological issues that were mentioned in the video that happen in your own community. For example, how certain plants are controlling erosion or making the landscape beautiful.

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**TIPS & TRICKS**

How to get the most information from a video:

* Watch closely. A good video will be dense with information.

* Take notes. Write down everything that sounds important.

* If the information is coming too fast, ask your teacher to hit pause or rewind to catch up.

* Look for structure. Videos often have headings for their sections (sometimes called intertitles). These clue you in to the subjects.
THE SURPRISING WORLD of HORTICULTURE
How plants power our lives in innovative ways

**Technology**

People only eat roughly 2.5% of the edible plants in the world. If we cultivated the others, maybe we could solve world hunger.

**Food**

More plants—more energy. 39% of the world's clothing is made from cotton plant fibers. More natural, more green, more sustainable.

**Science**

Spinach is being used in experiments to re-engineer human tissue. Plant scientists are working to solve some of the world's most challenging issues. Goodbye drought, starvation, and cancer!

**Drones & Robots**

Help us grow plants.

**Beauty**

Plant-based cosmetics are one of the fastest-growing segments of the beauty industry.

**Environment**

Simply looking at flowers and nature can improve your mood. More trees—less pollution. 1 tree can absorb 48 lbs. of CO₂ from the air each year.

**Art & Design**

Ornamental horticulture has been proven to reduce stress, improve memory and concentration, and speed healing.

**Sports**

Athletes are more likely to perform better in plants or artificial turf vs. natural turf.

**Fashion**

20% more likely to survive in plots on artificial turf.

**Jobs**

39% of the annual horticulture job openings are unfilled due to lack of qualified applicants.

**Health & Wellness**

1/2 of the top 100 most prescribed medicines come from plants.

**Economy**

Horticulture contributes $196 billion to the U.S. economy (annually).

**Bloom!**

Show more people that awesome jobs working with plants.
Make Your Community Bloom

Connect the projects below with the areas of the community that could be improved with plant power.

1. Add greenery to roadways to dampen sound from traffic and lessen the amount of pollution that enters the air and nearby waterways.

2. Remove dangerous materials and waste from a dump, and plant trees, shrubs, and grasses to return the land to its natural state.

3. Plant vacant city lots and start green markets where neighbors can get together and share/buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

4. Plant by riverbanks to help keep runoff and effluent out of the water. Plant tall grasses to increase food and habitat for wetland critters.

5. "Crank up" the variety of trees and plants in suburban neighborhoods to break up sprawling lawns and increase local biodiversity.

Extra Credit: Do you see plant solutions that have already taken root? Can you spot even more room to grow?

Answer key is located in Lesson 2.