

Overview – Lesson 4 “The Private Life of Plants”

Focus: Plants

Theme/Programme Link	Curriculum Links	Learning Objectives/Lesson Outline	Differentiation	Resources
Lesson 4 “The Private Life of Plants”: Focus – Plants	Er3 – Writing Composition Pupils should be taught to: a. choose form and content to suit a particular purpose [for example, notes to read or organise thinking, plans for action, poetry for pleasure] b. broaden their vocabulary and use it in inventive ways c. use language and style that are appropriate to the reader Art and Design Knowledge, skills and understanding Exploring and developing ideas a. children record from experience and imagination, to select and record from first-hand observation and to explore ideas for different purposes	Learning Objectives: <i>Can / create a fact-file dossier of a dangerous plant which includes illustration?</i> Lesson Outline: Starter activities/engagement: Share the true story in Lesson plan 4/Powerpoint 4 with the children. Whole class teaching: <u>World's most dangerous plants</u> Show children some images of the world's most dangerous plants. e.g. Pitcher plants/ giant relative of the Swiss cheese plant, etc. Individual work: <u>Top secret</u> Tell children that they are all secret agents. They have been given a mission to track down the world's most dangerous plant. Children to compile a dossier on their special dangerous plant. Extension: Create a “Wanted” poster of their dangerous plant. Plenary: Present their work to the class – explain their plant to the class and ask them as fellow spies to look out for it.	Layout of fact-file/dossier for lower ability	Lesson plan 4 (see next page) Powerpoint 4: The Private Life of Plants – Sir David introduction clip – Acacia survival clip Activities: Lesson 4 – Secret agent template – Plant assassin image <u>You will also need:</u> Card/paper to make dossier Layout of fact-file/dossier Card/paper to do illustration/painting Paints/pencils, etc to illustrate

Lesson plan 4

“The Private Life of Plants”

Focus: Plants

Inspired by
Attenborough

Starter activities/engagement:

Show children Sir David's introduction to the lesson, then watch the video on the Acacia tree (slide 1).

Share the following (true) story with the children: (See Powerpoint 4, slide 2).

“In his time, David Attenborough has faced many dangerous animals and has a remarkable ability to keep talking even in the trickiest of situations. But a plant stopped him in his tracks. The ‘jumping cholla’ cactus of Arizona got its name because it reputedly jumps out and attacks people. Nobody believed this until a film crew was working in the Sonoran Desert. David was walking in front of camera when suddenly, for no apparent reason, he collapsed in pain. The jumping cholla had got him. Its hooked spines are so sharp that you only have to touch them lightly for them to grab hold. They instantly detach from the plant leaving dozens of painful spines in the leg which seem to have leapt out of nowhere to stab their victim.”

Whole class teaching:

World's most dangerous plants

Show children some images of the world's most dangerous plants.e.g. Pitcher plants/ giant relative of the Swiss cheese plant, etc. (slides 3 and 4).

Watch the hyperlinked videos to David Attenborough's “The Private Life of Plants” – pitcher plant slide 3, venus flytrap slide 5 (these link to YouTube).

Explain what these plants do. Explain that these plants have learnt to adapt to their environment.

Get children to imagine creating their own very dangerous plant. Children to partner up and talk about what their most dangerous plant would look like, how it is dangerous, the kind of environment it lives in and how it has adapted, etc. In which way is your plant dangerous?

Get feedback from a couple of children about their ideas. Encourage creativity in ideas and description.

Individual work:

Top secret

Tell children that they are all secret agents. They have been given a very special and important mission to track down the world's most dangerous plant – use slide 6.

Children to compile a dossier on their special dangerous plant. Dossier should include:

- the plant's lethal qualities (what it is “wanted for”)
- information about where to find this plant
- a drawing of the plant with a label

Show children example secret file – use slide 7.

Give children dossier (Activities: Lesson 4)

Make sure that children use their senses to describe it. What does it look like/feel like/smell like? Does it make any sounds? Etc.

Give out template (in particular for low ability but could be for all children).

Children to complete independent work – use Activities: Lesson 4.

Extension:

Create a “Wanted” poster of their dangerous plant. Use example on slide 8 to inspire them and get them to create their own. A large painting of their dangerous plant could also be done for display purposes.

Plenary:

Present their work to the class – explain their plant to the class and ask them as fellow spies to look out for it.