

## SUBJECT AREAS:

Natural sciences

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

- To learn how herbarium is made by collecting the species, doing a research and learning about them.

## OBJECTIVES:

- To learn how herbarium is made, learning more about different plant species that are surrounding us.

## MATERIALS:

Standard herbarium size sheet of cartridge paper measuring (41.9 x 26.7cm) supported by corrugated cardboard, using PVA to make effective 'glue staple' at appropriate points of the stems.

## GRADE/LEVEL:

Upper Elementary School (12-14)

## DURATION:

Preparation time: 3 hour

Activity time: 60 min.

## PLACE:

Classroom

## AUTOR:

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# Class Herbarium

## INTRODUCTION:

Learning about different plant species can be really interesting, engaging your students having them collect the different species of plants, leaves or flowers will engage students more in the study.

## BACKGROUND:

A HERBARIUM is a collection of dried plants systematically named and arranged for ready reference and study. As practical activity this will help students to learn new skills, but also they will have opportunity to implement their knowledge about different species they have already learned from books. The students will have opportunity to choose one or more species they can find; they will collect them and make them dry but also, they will need to make research about them so they can make a reference. Once the plants are dry students will bring them in classroom and make one herbarium from all plants that were collected.

## Procedure:

**Outline:** For this lesson it's necessary to give to the students the task some weeks (at least 3) before real implementation of activity in classroom. They need to choose some plant species from their surrounding and take leaf or flower and make them dry. Once the plants are ready students should bring them in the classroom and make herbarium together with their classmates.

**Instruction:** A HERBARIUM is a collection of dried plants systematically named and arranged for ready reference and study. To make a herbarium specimen, the plant is collected, and notes are made about it. The plant is then pressed until dry between blotters that absorb moisture and mounted onto a herbarium sheet with a suitable label.

**Guided Practice:** Guide the students throughout the lesson about part of the plants making sure they understand which part of the plant is important to collect for which species.

**Formative Assessment:** Make sure your students getting as much as possible from this lesson. Check if they understood with a few questions for continuously monitoring.

**Collaborative Process:** Students will work together in classroom on making their herbarium together. Before choosing the plants, they need to collaborate and decide who will bring which plant.

**Independent Practice:** Students will work independently by collecting their plants and make them dry, but also by studying more about these species and making the label.

## FUN FACTS:

- *Luca Ghini, professor of medicine and botany at the University of Pisa during the 16th century, is credited with the invention of the herbarium. Traditionally, several plant specimens were glued in a decorative arrangement on a single sheet of paper.*

## ASSESSMENT:

Herbarium will be presented as a group work, but each student will be responsible of presenting their own species. The presentation will be done in front of the classroom, they will show their species, the scientific (Latin) name for the plant, the location at which the plant was collected, the date of collection and the collector's name.

## EVALUATION:

Students should write a short essay about what plants that were part of the herbarium are the most common in their surrounding and what species are more rare or not common.