



# Plant Conservation

*What is plant conservation?*

- ❖ **Grade Level**  
4th Grade
- ❖ **Subject Area**  
Life Science and Human Impacts
- ❖ **Key Topics**  
Conservation
- ❖ **Duration**  
Preparation: 5 min  
Lesson: 60 min
- ❖ **Setting**  
Classroom
- ❖ **Skills**  
Communicating and Creativity

- Overview**
- Students will learn about the many uses of plants and why we need to conserve them.
- Objectives**
- Students will be able to:
- provide examples of plant uses within the economy
  - identify at least 3 native or non-native plants
- Materials**
- Computer
  - Projector
  - Plant pots (one per student)
  - Paint brushes
  - Potting soil
  - Seeds (corn/pea will do best)
  - Paint
- Advanced Preparation**
- Download slideshow
  - Pass out painting materials

## Plants

### Vocabulary

**Natural Resource** - A supply of something found in nature that can be used for survival, recreation, or economic gain.

**Conservation** - The act of preventing a resource from being wasted so it can continue to exist for future generations.

**Environment** - The area or space in which something lives or exists.

**Ecosystem** - All living and nonliving things that interact with each other in the same environment.

**Biodiversity** - The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

**Native Species** - A species that originated and developed in its surrounding habitat and has adapted to living in that particular environment.

**Non-Native Species** - A species living outside of the place it naturally grows or lives.

**Invasive Species** - A non-native species that causes environmental or economic damage.

### Procedures

#### Slideshow

- Slide 2: Looking at this image of Montana, ask the students:
  - What do they see in the image?
  - What is maybe in the landscape that they cannot see?
  - Of what they listed, what do they see the most in this image?
- Slide 3: Plants are a key natural resource that is the foundation of many ecosystems and environments that we and other animals rely on.
  - This image is showing animals in an ecosystem
- Slide 4: Food and shelter are two ways that we can use plants, what are some other ways we can use plants?
  - **Medicine, Clothes, Paper, etc**
- Slide 5&6: Knowing how we use plants can help us understand how to conserve them.
  - The main goal of plant conservation is to protect plant biodiversity or protect the loss of plants.
    - Having a high plant diversity also increases plants ability to fight disease and pests.
- Slide 7&8: Some ways we can conserve plants are:
  - Conserving wild populations, educating people about the importance of plants, etc.
- Slide 8: When conserving plants, conservationists also think about which plants to conserve.
  - **Native species** - A species that originated and developed in its surrounding habitat and has adapted to living in that particular environment.
  - **Non-native species** - A species living outside of the place it naturally grows or lives.
  - **Invasive species** - A non-native species that causes environmental or economic damage.

#### Activity: Painting and Planting

- Pass out materials and give students about 30 minutes to paint
- Put soil and one seed into the pots. Add water.



## Plants

- Set by the classroom window or students may want to take their pots home.

### Wrap Up

- Clean up!

## Teacher Resources

### Resources

