

ACTIVITY 1

In this activity, you will **observe** and record information about plants that you can find around you, in books, or on the Internet.

Observe means to watch and pay attention to something.

LET'S MAKE

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

INCLUDED

3-4 LIMA BEANS



NOT INCLUDED

WATER



PLANTS TO OBSERVE



CRAYONS OR MARKERS



PENCIL



STEP 1

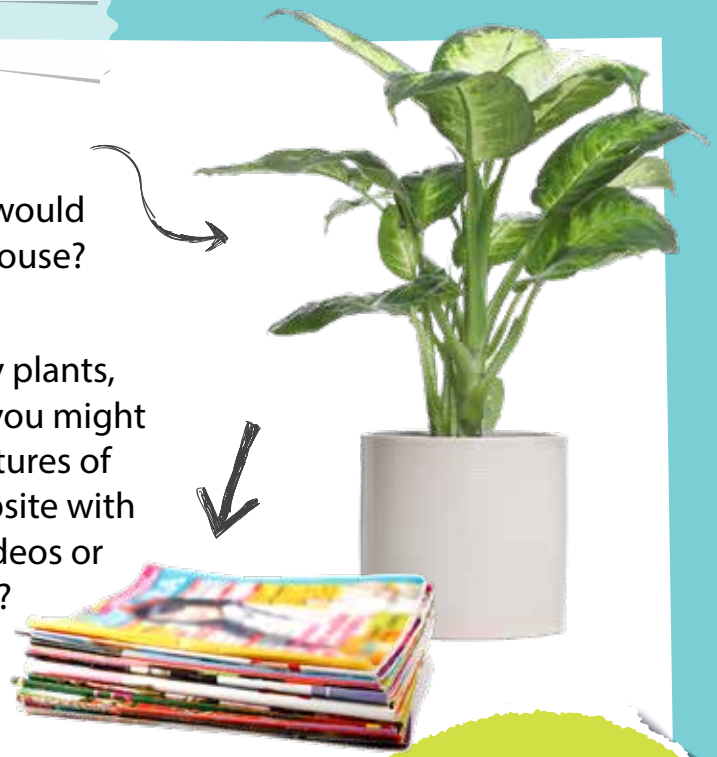
Before starting this activity, we will prepare for the next one by soaking the lima beans in some water to help the seeds grow faster. Find the bag of lima beans in your box. Fill the bag with water until the lima beans are covered. Leave the beans to soak for 12-24 hours.

NOTE: If you will not be completing activity within the next day, presoak the beans 12-24 hours before you start the activity.

STEP 2

Now, ask an adult where the best place would be to find plants. Are there any in your house? Outside in a yard or a park?

NOTE: If you can't go outside to find any plants, that's OK! Where are some other places you might find plants? Do you have books with pictures of plants? Can an adult help you find a website with pictures of plants on it? Are there any videos or movies you can watch to observe plants?



STEP 3

Find a plant you think is interesting and observe it. Use your senses to observe it. Depending on how you're viewing the plant, your observation may look different from someone else's. Do your best to describe the plant in as many ways as possible. What does it smell like? What does it look like? Does it make sounds when it moves? If possible, gently touch the plant. What does it feel like? Following are some **adjectives** that might help you describe the plants. This is just to get you started; there are so many more than this!

Adjectives are words that help you describe something.

BIG	SKINNY	WHITE	SWEET	PRICKLY
SMALL	FAT	YELLOW	STINKY	FLEXIBLE
TALL	RED	PINK	SOFT	RIGID

WHAT DOES IT SMELL LIKE?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

DOES IT MAKE SOUNDS WHEN IT MOVES?

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?



STEP 4

In the following chart, record your observations. Make sure you write down where you found the plant (plant location), what you observed (observations), and a picture of the plant. If you know the name of the plant, you can add that to the picture you draw.

PLANT LOCATION	OBSERVATIONS	PICTURE OF THE PLANT



STEP 5

Repeat this process for at least five different plants. If you want to do more, go for it! You can use the blank pages at the end of this booklet.



Now that you have observed several different kinds of plants, let's plan an imaginary **garden**! Gardeners, or people who plant and take care of gardens, like to have many different plants in their gardens. It makes the garden look pretty and provides a variety of plants for insects, butterflies, and birds.

A garden is an area where you grow flowers, vegetables, fruits, or other kinds of plants.

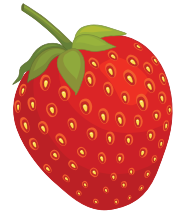
PLANT LOCATION	OBSERVATIONS	PICTURE OF THE PLANT



PLANT LOCATION	OBSERVATIONS	PICTURE OF THE PLANT



STEP 6



In the following area, list out what kind of plants you would like to have in your garden. If you don't know the names of them, use describing words to explain your idea.

In my garden, I would like:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

NOTE: Not all plants will grow in all places. For example, if you live in a very cold place, it's difficult to grow oranges outside as they grow best in the heat. However, because our garden is in our imagination, you can include whatever plants you'd like!





STEP 7

Draw a picture of your garden.



STEP 8

Share the garden you planned with someone. Explain the plants you included and why you included them.



THINK ABOUT IT

Animals, insects, and birds like different kinds of plants from the garden. What kinds of critters do you imagine will come to your garden? Add them to your picture.

Pretend you need to convince someone that they should plant your garden. What would you tell them? Why is your garden plan the best idea?