

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

Objectives

To assist students to identify plants native to the Murray catchment, using descriptions and photos.

Duration

30 minutes

Group Size

Up to 6 students

Materials

- Laminated 'What Plant is That?' sheet 1, 2 and 3
- Laminated Flower, Fruit and Leaf cards
- Laminated answer sheets
- Cuttings from Banksia, Melaleuca, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Eremophila and Senna plants for extension activity.

Background

Plants have features that help distinguish them from other plants and enable us to identify the plant. Three of these features are flowers, fruit and leaves. By looking closely at the fruit, flowers and leaves of plants we are able to get a good idea of what the plant is.

LESSON PLAN

Introduction (3 minutes)

Explain that the flowers, fruit and leaves of plants help us to determine what sort of plant it is. We can look at the different characteristics (ie, shape, colour,

smell) of the flowers, fruit and leaves to help us identify the plant.

Setting the Scene (2 minutes)

In this activity the students will be matching photos of flowers, fruit and leaves with their descriptions to help them identify what type of plant it is.

Activity (20 minutes)

1. Hand out the laminated 'What Plant is That?' worksheets 1, 2 and 3 with corresponding laminated flower, fruit and leaf cards.
2. Students can work on a sheet in pairs or individually (depending on the number of students).
3. Explain to the students that they should match the laminated cards to the description on their worksheet.
4. When the students have finished, use the answer sheet to see if they are correct.
5. Rotate the remaining sheets around to each student (or student group) and ask them to do the same for those sheets.
6. Once each student or pair of students has completed each sheet and checked their answer, the activity is complete.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Ask students what they have learnt about identifying plants from this activity?

Extension Activity

Collect real specimens (with permission from the

landowner) from Banksia, Melaleuca, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Eremophila and Senna plants. Ask students to put their learning from the above activity into practise by getting them to identify each of the real specimens.

Other Information

This activity can be conducted by individual students on a worksheet. The worksheets and cards contained within this education kit can be printed from the website.

The cards can be printed as stickers to go on individual worksheets. The stickers must be printed on a full page label sheet and cut out or printed onto Avery labels L7164. Please note that the sticker sheets have the flowers, fruit and leaves printed twice

to save on paper. Therefore, two students can share one sticker sheet or cut the sticker sheet in half.

More information

Contact Sandy Dellwo, Land Services Officer – Education on 03 5880 1415.

Acknowledgments

This activity was developed by Maureen Zeschke, Land Services Officer, Murray Local Land Services.

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2014. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing August 2014. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser. For updates go to www.lls.nsw.gov.au

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

We can work out the name of a tree or plant by following ‘clues’

SHEET 1 - FLOWERS

The first clue is looking at the flowers on a plant. Flowers help the plant stand out.

1. Look for the bag of flower cards.
2. Match the descriptions below to a flower card.
3. Place the matching card in the box above its description.

<p style="text-align: center;">Banksia (<i>Banksia</i>)</p> <p>Has cylinders of red or yellow brushes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bottlebrush (<i>Melaleuca</i>)</p> <p>Has brushes of red, white or pink spikes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wattle (<i>Acacia</i>)</p> <p>Has yellow balls or small spikes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Gum trees (<i>Eucalyptus</i>)</p> <p>Has fluffy, white, cream or pink stamens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Emu bush (<i>Eremophila</i>)</p> <p>Has trumpet flowers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Senna (<i>Senna</i>)</p> <p>Has small yellow flowers with petals and a dark centre</p>

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

We can work out the name of a tree or plant by following ‘clues’

SHEET 2 - FRUIT

The second clue is looking at the fruit on a plant. Some plants have unusual fruit.

1. Look for the bag of fruit cards.
2. Match the descriptions below to a fruit card.
3. Place the matching card in the box above its description.

<p>Banksia (<i>Banksia</i>) Has hairy, hard fruit with mouths</p>	<p>Bottlebrush (<i>Melaleuca</i>) Has cup shaped fruit, close together with no stalks</p>	<p>Wattle (<i>Acacia</i>) Has long seed pods with the seeds inside</p>
<p>Gum trees (<i>Eucalyptus</i>) Has cup shaped fruit on stalks</p>	<p>Emu bush (<i>Eremophila</i>) Has grape like fruit that has a hard seed in the centre</p>	<p>Senna (<i>Senna</i>) Has long seed pods with the seed inside</p>

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

We can work out the name of a tree or plant by following ‘clues’

SHEET 3 - LEAVES

The third clue is looking at the leaves on a plant. Leaves are different colours and shapes.

1. Look for the bag of leaf cards.
2. Match the descriptions below to a leaf card.
3. Place the matching card in the box above its description.

<p>Banksia (<i>Banksia</i>) Has green leaves with a saw-tooth edge</p>	<p>Bottlebrush (<i>Melaleuca</i>) Has small leaves with a spike</p>	<p>Wattle (<i>Acacia</i>) Can have feathery or narrow leaves</p>
<p>Gum trees (<i>Eucalyptus</i>) Has long, narrow leaves with oil dots</p>	<p>Emu bush (<i>Eremophila</i>) Has long, narrow and thick leaves</p>	<p>Senna (<i>Senna</i>) Has fine soft leaves that are narrow but short</p>

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

ANSWER SHEET

SHEET 1 - FLOWERS



Banksia
(*Banksia*)

Has cylinders of red or yellow brushes



Bottlebrush
(*Melaleuca*)

Has brushes of red, white or pink spikes



Wattle
(*Acacia*)

Has yellow balls or small spikes



Gum trees
(*Eucalyptus*)

Has fluffy, white, cream or pink stamens



Emu bush
(*Eremophila*)

Has trumpet flowers



Senna
(*Senna*)

Has small yellow flowers with petals and a dark centre

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

ANSWER SHEET

SHEET 2 - FRUIT



Banksia
(*Banksia*)

Has hairy, hard fruit with mouths



Bottlebrush
(*Melaleuca*)

Has cup shaped fruit, close together with no stalks



Wattle
(*Acacia*)

Has long seed pods with the seeds inside



Gum trees
(*Eucalyptus*)

Has cup shaped fruit on stalks



Emu bush
(*Eremophila*)

Has grape like fruit that has a hard seed in the centre



Senna
(*Senna*)

Has long seed pods with the seed inside

WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

ANSWER SHEET

SHEET 3 - LEAVES



Banksia
(*Banksia*)

Has green leaves with a saw-tooth edge



Bottlebrush
(*Melaleuca*)

Has small leaves with a spike



Wattle
(*Acacia*)

Can have feathery or narrow leaves



Gum trees
(*Eucalyptus*)

Has long, narrow leaves with oil dots



Emu bush
(*Eremophila*)

Has long, narrow and thick leaves



Senna
(*Senna*)

Has fine soft leaves that are narrow but short





