

Activity 3: Find that plant

Activity 3 should be spread over two lessons.

1) Thinking Walk

Children should go out and try to identify their mystery plant in the local environment

- **Observe:** Where does the mystery plant grow? Are there differences between the individual plants – leaf shape and size, height of plant, hairiness, colour and so on.
- **Collect:** Take photos or specimens of plants and seeds and their differences.

2) If seed is collected, children need to process and bank the seed using the seed harvesting and processing notes. This banked seed can be left as a mystery for the following year's Plant Detectives.

3) Use the Plant Detectives worksheet for a seed packet design activity.

4) Research any use of your identified plant; pool your information on the plant in a plenary session.

Helpful hints

- If you have not done Activity 2, you can still do this activity once you have told the children the name of the mystery seed.
- It might be useful to carry out a search ahead of time for this plant. The many plants within this group (genus) *Rumex* (dock) all look quite similar. Use a similar looking dock to work with if *Rumex acetosa* can't be found. If there are no plants locally, or no seed of this species available to bank, ask the children to research this and one other selected plant from the Identikit.
- Children could collect seed from the school garden and bank this for the next year's Plant Detectives – along with the seed packet and instructions they have created. If they bank seed from the listed plants they could choose to leave the packet unlabelled as a mystery for the next year.

Resources

What else is in the binder?

- ☀ Seed collecting guidelines
- ☀ Seed collection form
- ☀ Seed banking using the mini seed bank
- ☀ How to press plants and make a herbarium specimen)

What's in the Treasure Chest?

- ☀ The Great Plant Hunt Identikit

Things you need to collect

- ☀ Cameras to photograph plants (optional)
- ☀ Collecting bags