



# What grows in my local community?

A study on native flowers and plants  
A TWINS PROJECT PLAN

## General Overview...

This TWINS project aims to raise awareness about native plants and their importance to the local environment. Students from each school will investigate what grows naturally in their local community. Students will be focusing on what these plants need to grow and to produce fruit/vegetables/flowers and what is bad for their development. Students will be made aware on why each one of these plants are important for the eco system and what they can do to minimize the threat and harm to these plants.

Students will also learn how products from plants (fruit and vegetables) play a big role in the country's economy and everyday lives of local communities. Students investigate what would happen to the eco system, climate, human health, economy, etc if plants were to disappear.

This project involves a field trip (by foot) around the local community. By going on a field trip around their community, students will get to know their local environment better which will enable them to familiarise and understand the need for preservation. This project can be presented in many different ways; ideally it should have a lot of visual aids (photos, drawings, magazine cut outs, etc.) to support students understanding.

## Key areas covered...

This project can span across many different school subjects as well as providing the students with the opportunity to explore various global dimension themes:

- Sustainable development
- Environmental hazards
- Geography and natural processes
- Agriculture (forms of modern agriculture, benefits/disadvantages)
- Public health
- Biology (flora and fauna)

## Method...

- The TWINS Coordinators of both schools agree to share this project and set a deadline for its completion
- The teachers agree on how the project will be researched and presented
- Students work as a class or in small groups to research the project.
- Students will go on a walking field trip around the local environment to investigate and take pictures/make drawings. Teachers must prepare a schedule of the field trip beforehand with information on the plants to share with students.

- Once the relevant information has been collected by students (interviewing farmers, visiting local authorities, exploring their environment, researching on the Internet, using libraries, taking photographs or drawing pictures of the plants....) the project will be prepared to be exchanged with the TWIN school overseas
- A class is held to analyse and discuss the findings, focusing on species that are common in both countries or indigenous and unique to one country. Discussion can include... Which ones grow in both communities? Why do certain plants not grow in the other climate? What plants are essential for local wildlife and habitats? What introduced plants can harm the local eco-systems?...

## The Final Product...

On completion, this project can include:

- Illustrations, photos or magazine cut outs of the different plants that grow in the local environment.
- Findings and photographs from a field trip to illustrate local plants, location of plants, growing methods, good/bad impacts, etc.
- Information about the significance of the native plants to the local environment, local industries, the economy, public health, etc.

## Critical Thinking...

Student's critical reflection could include:

- What do plants need to grow?
- How are humans harming the environment that is vital for the growth of local plants?
- What would happen if there were no plants on this planet?
- Are there differences between plants/vegetables/fruits that grow in both countries? (size, colour, nutritional value, names etc.)
- Why are plants important in the human diet?
- What are the different climates/environments that plants grow in? Why do they only grow there? What happens if their native climates disappear?
- What impact (good and bad) have animals/insects on plants?
- What can be done/is done to protect plants from harmful insects? What are the differences in methods? Which ones are good and bad?
- How can products of plants (vegetables and fruit) be stored? What methods are used?
- Is there a flower industry in your country? What are the flowers used for? How important is this industry? How does it affect your local environment?
- What methods are currently used in modern farming? How do they impact on the native vegetation?
- What happens if plants which are not native are introduced to a local environment?
- What happens if one native species becomes more dominant in the vegetation? How does this impact on animal life, eco system, human health, landscape, etc.