# Plant Classification Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Created by:</th>
<th>IRRC</th>
<th>Time Required:</th>
<th>45-60 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>5th +</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Students will learn about the 4 plant categories of range plants, and be able to classify plant pictures as shrubs, grasses, forbs, or grass-like.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Goal(s) &amp; Objective(s)</th>
<th>Students will be able to describe characteristics of forbs, grasses, shrubs and grass-like plants and be able to categorize pictures of plants into one of the categories.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Prerequisites: Materials:</th>
<th>“Rangelands and Their Plants”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Copies of plants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Plant ID answer sheets blank &amp; key</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. “How to Classify Plants” guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Plant ID hints (this is for optional use)</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Activities: Instructional Approaches/Strategies</th>
<th>Introduction:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Read “Rangelands and Their Plants” guide for general knowledge.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Read through with students “How to Classify Plants” guide. This covers the 4 categories: forbs, grass, shrubs, and grass-like.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Procedures</th>
<th>1. Have students go through the 16 plants (including Bonus) and categorize them.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Alterations:</th>
<th>1. If students need the hints, tape them on the back. (useful to younger students)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. To challenge older students have them try to categorize the plants without using the “How to Classify Plants” guide.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Closure</th>
<th>1. Correct Classification sheet with student.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment:</th>
<th>Have students categorize the following plants and write an explanation of why: Assessment #1- Forb (spotted knapweed)- Has a showy flower Assessment #2- Grass-like (Baltic Rush) Doesn’t have joints Assessment #3- Shrub (Serviceberry) Has broad leaves with berries Assessment #4- Grass- (Smooth Bromegrass) Has jointed stems and narrow leaves</th>
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**Master List of Hints & Answers**
Plant ID Hints

1) Has berries, and can also grow into a small tree.
2) Has long narrow leaves
3) Broad leaves
4) Non-woody
5) Does NOT have colored flowers
6) Woody plant with broad leaves
7) Broad leaves with small seeds
8) Stems do not have joints
9) Showy flower
10) Grain like seeds
11) Jointed stems
12) Showy flower
13) Flowers are seed-like clusters
14) Woody plant with small stems
15) Solid, non-woody stem

Bonus- Stem is triangular

Plant Identification KEY with plant names
Labels
Grass – G
Forb – F
Grass-like – L
Shrub – S

1. _____ S _____ Juniper
2. _____ G _____ Great Basin Wildrye
3. _____ F _____ Arrowleaf Balsam Root
4. _____ F _____ Russian Thistle OR Tumbleweed
5. ______ G _____ Idaho Fescue
6. _____ S _____ Shadscale Saltbrush
7. _____ S _____ Redosier Dogwood
8. _____ L _____ Baltic Rush
9. ______ F _____ Tailcup Lupine
10. _____ G _____ Indian Rice grass
11. ______ G _____ Cheat grass OR Downy Brome
12. ______ F _____ Mules Ear
13. ______ L _____ Nebraska Sedge
14. _____ S _____ Snowberry
15. _____ F _____ Low Larkspur

Bonus _____ L _____ Elk Sedge

Plant Hints-

Rangeland Plant Classification 3

www.idrange.org
(Optional) cut out hints & tape on back of plant pictures.

1. Has berries, and can also grow into a small tree.

2. Has long narrow leaves

3. Has broad leaves

4. Non-woody

5. Does **NOT** have colored flowers

6. Has a woody stem with broad leaves

7. Has broad leaves with **small seeds**

8. Stems do **not** have joints

9. Has showy flowers
10. Has grain like seeds

11. Has jointed stems

12. Has showy flowers

13. Flowers are seed-like clusters

14. Woody plant with small stems

15. Solid, non-woody stem

**Bonus**- Stem is triangular
Plant Identification

Label the plants into one of the following Categories:

Grass –G
Forb-F
Grass-like-L
Shrub-S

1. _______
2. _______
3. _______
4. _______
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9. _______
10. _______
11. _______
12. _______
13. _______
14. _______
15. _______
Bonus _______

Plant Identification

Label the plants into one of the following Categories:

Grass –G
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1. _______
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8. _______
9. _______
10. _______
11. _______
12. _______
13. _______
14. _______
15. _______
Bonus _______