

Plant Press Activity

Created by: IRRC	Time Required: varies
Subject: Science	Grade Level: 4+

Overview	Students will go on a wilderness hike and collect plants to categorize into forbs, grasses, shrubs or grass-like. They will then construct their plant press to store the plants that they want to keep.
Goal(s) & Objective(s)	Students will learn that plants are classified into 4 categories– forbs, grasses, shrubs, & grass-like by certain characteristics.
Prerequisites & Materials	<u>Rangeland Plant Background</u> Materials: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRRC Plant Presses 2. “How to Identify Range Plants” handouts 3. Scissors
Teaching Activities: <i>Instructional Approaches/Strategies</i>	<p>Introduction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go over the different plant classifications with students: forbs, shrubs, grasses, grass-like. <p>Procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain rules for collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look for plants that you like and want to keep. • be selective- You can’t keep all the plants • have a reason for choosing the each plant • be able to classify each chosen plant • collect no more than 6 plants to press 2. Review “Collecting and Pressing Rangeland Plant Guide” and discuss the different reasons people collect plants. <p>Closure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the hike/exploration trip students will share 1-2 plants that they collected and classified and how they determined this classification. 2. Students will take the plants they collected, place them in the plant press and label the categories: shrub, grass, forb, grass-like. And list the characteristic that classifies them in that category. 3. Discuss the reasons and importance of pressing plants. Use the “Collecting Guide” as a reference.
Assessment:	Verify that students classified their plants correctly. Each note card should list the category & one characteristic.