## Plant Press Activity

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<th>IRRC</th>
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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>4+</td>
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### 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
- Rangeland Plant Background
- **Materials:**
  1. IRRC Plant Presses
  2. “How to Identify Range Plants” handouts
  3. Scissors

### Teaching Activities: Instructional Approaches/Strategies

#### Introduction:
1. Go over the different plant classifications with students: forbs, shrubs, grasses, grass-like.

#### Procedures
1. Explain rules for collection:
   - 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.

#### Closure
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.