

## University of Michigan Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center

### Plant ID and Ecology Program Pre and Post-Visit Resources

Welcome to the Plant ID and Ecology program resource page. Here you will find links to resources pertaining to this program, along with important concepts and relevant literature. Certain links are for short, educational, program-specific videos, while others are images, sounds, worksheets, or fact sheets related to the program. Descriptions are included with the links. The pre-visit resources will help introduce students to our Plant ID and Ecology program and the post-visit resources will help reinforce their experiences.

All of the resources provide supplementary and complementary information for the program. Enjoy!

#### Pre-Visit Resources:

#### Introductory Concepts:

*Habitat* - place where plants and animals live

*Ecosystem* - all living and nonliving things in an area

*Adaptation* - a special skill or body part that helps an organism survive in the wild

*Biodiversity* - the variety of living things in a given area

*Deciduous* - certain trees and shrubs that shed their leaves annually

*Evergreen/Coniferous* - trees or shrubs with needles that keep their foliage all year

#### Sights and Sounds: (video and/or audio)

Plant structure (2:51 minute video)

<https://dptv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/5dea21b4-6c92-46ff-982c-8650f9429c01/think-garden-plant-structure/>

Coniferous vs. Deciduous (1:20 minute video explaining the difference)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcO7c\\_jHEjg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcO7c_jHEjg)

#### Literature:

*The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown-ups* by Gina Ingoglia

*Trees of Michigan Field Guide (Tree Identification Guides)* by Stan Tekiela

*Wildflowers of Michigan Field Guide (Wildflower Identification Guides)* by Stan Tekiela

*Ultimate Explorer Field Guide: Trees* by Patricia Daniels

*Plants and Ecosystems (A True Book: Incredible Plants!)* by Alexa Kurzius

#### Additional Information/Worksheets:

Michigan Spring Wildflowers

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Guide\\_to\\_spring\\_wildflower\\_hikes\\_accessible\\_687843\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Guide_to_spring_wildflower_hikes_accessible_687843_7.pdf)

Links tested: 7/21/25

Michigan Urban Trees (with pictures & descriptions)

<https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/urban-ecology-guide/home/urban-trees>

## **Post-Visit Resources:**

### **Concepts to Reinforce: (in addition to introductory concepts)**

*Dichotomous Keys* - tool to help identify organisms

*Seed Dispersal* - ways in which seeds are spread away from parent plant

*Leaf ID* - using shapes, patterns, and textures to help identify leaves

### **Additional Literature:**

*Plants and Tree Ecosystems! From Wetlands to Forests - Botany for Kids* by Left Brain Kids

*Trees, Leaves, Flowers, and Seeds: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Plant Kingdom* by DK and Smithsonian Institution

*Nature All Around: Plants* by Pamela Hickman and Carolyn Gavin

### **Additional Information: (articles, documents, videos, images)**

Tree ID (7:30 minute PBS video that explains using a dichotomous key and deciduous/conifer differences)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAH9-QmSSJw>

Seed Dispersal (Cornell Naturalist Outreach document on how seeds are spread)

<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/7/3643/files/2013/09/Seed-Dispersal-l-2c20ppf.pdf>

Forest Ecosystems (relationship between plants & animals in forest)

<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/7/3643/files/2013/09/Forest-Ecosystems-1q1x758.pdf>