

Leaf Scavenger Hunt

Find a plant with...

Leaves that smell good

Why would a plant have leaves that smell good?
(To get the attention of helpful bugs such as bees.)

Leaves that smell bad

Why would a plant have leaves that smell bad?
(So animals will not eat them.)

Waxy leaves

Why would a plant have tough, waxy leaves?
(Some desert plants have waxy leaves to help keep water inside.)

Thick leaves

Why would a plant have thick leaves? What might the plant store in its leaves?
(Some plants that live in dry places store water in their leaves.)

Spiny leaves

Why would a plant have spiny leaves? Who are they protecting the plant from?
(Some plants have spiny leaves so animals will not eat them.)

Big leaves

Why would a plant have big leaves? What might collect there? What happens to the soil underneath them?
(Some plants have big leaves to collect water, keep the soil underneath the plant moist, and collect more sunlight.)

Leaves that trap insects

Why would a plant have leaves that trap insects? What does a plant do with the insects that it catches?
(The plant digests the insect and gets minerals from it. This is a way for plants to survive in soil with very few nutrients.)

Leaves we like to eat

We eat food from plants every day! What are some leaves that we like to eat?

Option: Do this scavenger hunt as a blind/caterpillar walk. Ask students to get in a line with their hands on the shoulders of the student in front of them. Lead them through the garden, stopping at leaves with interesting textures, shapes, sizes, and smells. Help them feel and smell the leaves, and ask them what they notice and how these characteristics might help the plant.

Find more garden related scavenger hunts at www.lifelab.org/scavenger-hunt