

## **LESSON ACTIVITIES**

### ✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

#### **Scientific classification**

Carolus Linnaeus was a Swedish botanist and dedicated Christian who lived in the 1700s. He believed that living things could be classified according to the kinds talked about in Genesis. He studied plants carefully and developed the first widely used scientific classification system for living things. Linnaeus based his classification system on physical resemblances between organisms and gave two Latin names to all species (kinds). Much of the modern classification system is similar to what Linnaeus developed.

We can get an idea of how Linnaeus did this by developing our own classification system. Most plants have leaves, roots, and stems. They also produce fruit or seed pods. Even though most plants have all these parts, each plant has different characteristics.

We are going to think about each part of a plant and the differences we see between plants for each part. By doing this we are making a type of classification system like Linnaeus did. This can be done because God designed each plant in a very particular way. It may have elements or parts that are similar to other plants but each plant is unique and will produce its own kind.

What characteristics can leaves be categorized by? What are different types of fruit or seed pods? What are different types of roots? What are different types of stems or trunks?

(Examples are given below that the children may come up with.)

<b><u>Leaves</u></b>	<b><u>Fruit/Seed</u></b>	<b><u>Root</u></b>	<b><u>Stem</u></b>
Shape	Cone (pine)	Fibrous (grass)	Woody (trees, bushes)
Size	Fleshy (apple)	Tap root (carrot)	Herbaceous (grass)
Edges	Pod (bean)	Tuberous (potato)	Subterranean (underground)
Pattern/Color	Nut (walnut)		Vine (grapes)
# of leaflets	Seed head (dandelion, wheat)		Spreading (strawberries)

### ✓ **Craft:** Leaf Rubbing

As a reminder that God created plants according to kinds, make a leaf rubbing.

Materials: leaves, crayons, white paper

Preparation: Collect a variety of leaves from different types of plants.

Instructions:

1. Place one leaf at a time under the paper with the vein side up.
2. Using the side of a crayon or pencil, color over the top of the leaf. Repeat this process with other leaves, making a collage of different kinds.

✓ **Investigative Activity:** Fruit examination.

Gather different types of fruit. Have the children examine them and identify what they have in common and what is different about them.

✓ **Game:** Identifying seeds

As a reminder that God created plants according to kinds, play a game identifying seeds without looking at them.

Instructions:

1. Gather at least ten different types of seeds that the children would be familiar with. (rice, barley, oats, pea, beans, poppy, sesame, celery, etc.)
2. Label small paper bags from one to ten and place a quantity of one type of seed in each bag.
3. Pass the first bag around and have the children guess what it is by feeling it without looking into the bag. Record the guesses.
4. Do the same for the other bags and evaluate the results. (i.e., Could they guess the right type of seed by feel alone?)