

Charting Diversity

By Ardlee Lee, Computer Lab Instructor at Penn Elementary,
Adapted from Project Learning Tree K-8 Activity #10 (p. 51)

Summary: Students organize different species of plants and animals found in the school garden.

Objective: Students appreciate the individual qualities that plants and animals in a garden provide to our world.

Grades: 4-8

Time needed: One class period; 45-60 minutes

Standards met:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Preparation:

Walk through the garden space to ensure that it is presentable to your students for this lesson, and locate a place where everyone can sit comfortably.

Materials needed:

- Chart Paper
- Pencils

Procedure:

- 1.) Before going outside with students, brainstorm the different living species in the garden.
- 2.) Prepare a chart with any of the following columns:
 - Is it alive?
 - What is it's shape?
 - Where does it live?
 - What does it look like?
 - How does it reproduce?
 - How does it move?
- 3.) As a class or in small groups, go outside to look for plants and animals, and fill out the chart, categorizing findings.
- 4.) Students should present their findings to the class and discuss what makes each of the plants and animals unique.

