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.