



## Grade One - Plants

# Lesson Two:

## Roots, Stems, Leaves and Flowers of the Native Prairie Plants

### Summary

Using the Saskatchewan Watershed website the teacher will introduce pictures of some of the native prairie plants. Students will discover through the pictures and the plant information cards how to identify the different plants by their flowers, leaves, stems and roots. They will be introduced to the words roots, stem, leaves, flowers.

### Objectives

Students will:

- 1.2 Identify the roots, stems, leaves and flowers of plants.

### Background

Grasslands once covered 40 percent of our continent, but now the Prairies are our most endangered ecosystem. Key to appreciating native prairie is recognizing the diversity of its life forms. Scientists call this biodiversity. Biologists estimate that 250 plant species compete and cooperate on our native prairie.

**Duration** Four 30 minute classes.

### Materials

Wildlife Cards

- A variety of flowering plants pulled from the roadside, creekside, alleys and ditches.
- **Plant Cards**
- Computer linked to the internet
- Data projector
- **Plant Parts** activity sheets–Prairie Coneflower, Yarrow, Goldenbean
- Clear plastic cups
- Kentucky Blue or Blue Grama grass seed.

### Vocabulary

Roots  
Stem  
Leaves  
Flowers  
Ditches  
Creekside

### Activities

#### Activity 1 (Outdoors)

##### Procedure

1. Take children outdoors (alleys, sidewalks, roadsides, creeksides, and ditches) to collect different flowering plants. If this isn't possible the teacher is encouraged to gather plant samples and store them in large re-sealable bags. Another option is to print out large coloured pictures from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority website ([www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca)) and mount them on cardboard. Check with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum to see what resources are available.
2. Upon returning to the classroom have the children sit on the floor, gathered around a computer. Use the computer monitor as a teaching screen (similar to chart teaching), or use a data projector and the overhead screen. Go to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority website ([www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca)) and look at the pictures of Yarrow, Goldenbean, Galaradia, Prairie Coneflower, and Crocus. Point out the flowers, stems and leaves of the plants.
3. Use the **Plant Parts** activity sheets for Prairie Coneflower, Yarrow and Goldenbean which follow this lesson. Cut apart and laminate the puzzle pieces. Have the students reassemble the puzzles in the correct sequence, indentifying the **roots, stems, leaves** and **flowers**.
4. Have students identify the flowers, stems, leaves and roots of the plants collected.

#### Activity 2 (Outdoors)

##### Procedure

1. Take children outdoors (alleys, sidewalks, roadsides, creeksides and ditches) to find different flowering plants. Look at the habitat in which they grow. Discuss how different plants are suited to different habitats. Notice that some plants grow in cracks in sidewalks, while others need shade. Check the soil in which plants grow and notice the conditions of sunlight and shade. Check for moisture.
2. Have them sketch a plant. Identify it if possible. Make sure they try to include **roots, stems, leaves** and **flowering head**, or **seed head**. Alternatively, the teacher can sketch a large one for the classroom.

## Grade One - Plants

### Lesson Two:

## Roots, Stems, Leaves and Flowers of the Native Prairie Plants (cont.)

### Assessment

Students will be able to identify the roots, stems, leaves and flowers of Yarrow, Goldenbean, and Prairie Coneflower when looking at pictures. Students will be able to identify the **roots, leaves, stems** and **flowers** of the plants they have collected.

### Extensions

Plant some Kentucky Blue grass or Blue Grama grass in clear plastic cups. Use a mixture of sand and soil. Kentucky Blue grass is readily available and grows fairly quickly. Students can decorate the cup to look like a face, and the grass becomes the hair. Once grown, you can look at roots in an extra cup you have planted as a teacher. Alternatively, the teacher can plant some grass into a glass aquarium or fish bowl and watch root growth.



### Resources

#### Selected Resources

*Field Guide Identification of range plants of Southern Saskatchewan.*

*Native Prairie Stewardship. Plants With a Sense of Community.*

*Royal Saskatchewan Museum*

# Plant Parts: Prairie Coneflower



Coneflower

flowers

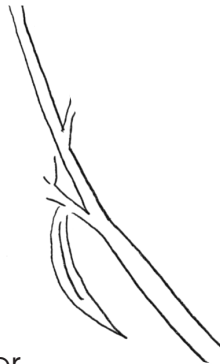
Coneflower



Coneflower

leaves

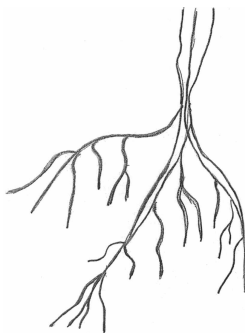
Coneflower



Coneflower

stem

Coneflower



Coneflower

roots

Coneflower

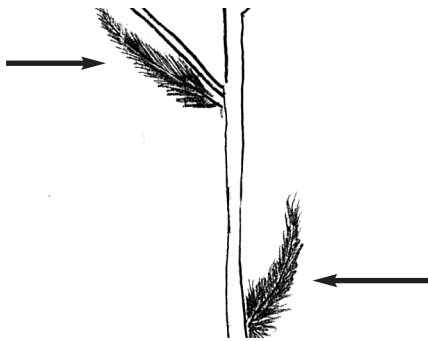
# Plant Parts: Yarrow



Yarrow

flowers

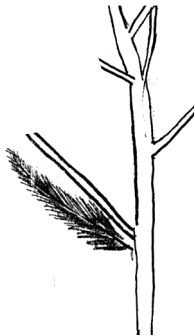
Yarrow



Yarrow

leaves

Yarrow



Yarrow

stem

Yarrow



Yarrow

roots

Yarrow

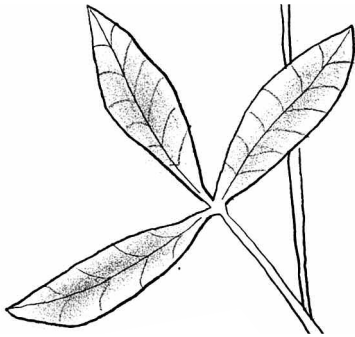
# Plant Parts: Goldenbean



Goldenbean

flowers

Goldenbean



Goldenbean

leaves

Goldenbean



Goldenbean

stem

Goldenbean



Goldenbean

roots

Goldenbean