

P.L.A.N.T. Needs

Objective: To become familiar with plants' needs.

Time: 20 minutes.

Materials: Poster, markers, handbook.

Start a discussion of what people need to be able to live. On a poster, make a list of the five basic needs all people share: food, water, air, shelter and clothing. Ask a student to circle the items that the group thinks plants must have to live. Ask if plants need anything that people do not. On the left side of a poster write the word PLANT and tell the gardeners that everything a plant needs is in that word. Complete the chart as shown below and challenge the gardeners to recall the list of plant needs without looking at the list.

P	Place	In a container or garden.
L	Light	Sun or artificial light.
A	Air	Oxygen and carbon dioxide.
N	Nutrients	Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium.
T	Thirsty	Plants, like all living things, need water.
S	Soil	Or other material (sand, gravel, water) to grow roots in.

Know & Show Sombrero

Objective: To make wearable works of art that show an understanding of the benefits of plants to people.

Time: 1 hour.

Materials: 2-inch clear tape, newspaper, miscellaneous art supplies (markers, yarn, glitter, pipe cleaners, tissue, etc.).

The junior gardeners will create pieces of wearable art: decorated newspaper hats. Help each individually or have the gardeners choose partners to help make a hat for each member of the JMG group.

Place the middle of two large, square sheets of newspaper on the top of a student's head. Lay the rest of the paper flat against the student's head. Tape around the newspaper starting right over the gardener's ear and continue wrapping until the tape goes all the way around the student's head.

Curl up the edges of the newspaper to form the brim of the hat. Have the gardeners decorate their hats with different art supplies to show what they have learned about the benefits that plants provide us. Have the gardeners be creative—for example, a pair of jeans might be cut out of construction paper and hung to the brim of the hat to show that some plants provide us with clothing.

