

### **Activity-31: Plant Description.**

**Aim:** How to describe a plant without knowing its actual name?

#### **Procedure:**

The following instruction-set is useful in the comparative study of land plants and water plants:

1. What is soil?
2. Try to explore in your surroundings the different kinds of plants.

#### **Strategy:**

The following instruction-set is a tool for doing so.

1. How tall is the plant?
2. Is it similar in appearance to any plant whose name you already know?
3. Where does it grow? Does it grow in shaded or under direct bright sun light?
4. Does the plant grow in wet or very watery soil or can it grow in a dry stony soil or can it grow even in sandy soil?
5. Does the plant grow and survive the different seasons of the year?
6. How long is the stem of the plant?
7. Does the plant have leaves at every point or do the leaves grow only from certain region of the plants?
8. Does the plant have branches? Does it branch from all locations or only from certain locations?
9. How many flowers does the plant have? Do the flowers arise from just any region on the plant or do they only arise from certain regions?
10. Is it a domesticated plant and its parts are used for food?
11. Try to find out how the plants roots are shaped?
12. To what depth does the plant's root grow into?

13. Is the stem soft or hard?
14. What is the size of the largest leaf and the smallest leaf on the plant in terms of tip-tip distance and margin-to-margin distance?
15. What is the distance between any two consecutive leaves on the plant?
16. What is the ratio of the height of the plant to the weight of the plant after being washed?
17. What is the weight of the smallest leaf and the largest leaf? Find the weight of a large number of leaves of similar size and divide it by the number of leaves.
18. Find the weight of the fully blossom flower.
19. What is the colour of the flowers? Does it change over time?
20. Are there different coloured flowers on the same plant at the same time?
21. What is the colour of the leaf? Does the colour change over time?
22. What is the colour of the leaf when it withers away?
23. What kind of animals eats the parts of this plant? Do they eat all the parts or only some parts?
24. Does the plant have any thorns, spine, and tendrils? Where are they located and how many occur?
25. How many seeds does a single plant produce?
26. Does the plant occur in groups or singly?
27. What other plants occur in the surrounding of this plant?
28. Try to describe the overall outline of the plant or the various parts of the plant using one or a combination of the following basic geometric figures in a particular order starting from the root tip to the stem tip. They are:

29. Now identify plants in or on or around the water bodies and in your land surrounding. To compare them using this instruction set to first describe them.

Straight line	Thick line	Circle	Ellipse
Arc	Triangle	Square	Rectangle
Polygons	Spiral	Torus	Sphere
Hemisphere	Cone	Pyramid	Cylinder
Octagon	Parallelepiped	Rhombus	Trapezium
Kite	Semicircle	Star	Prism
Crescent	Alphabet shapes:aGq	Symbol shapes:.,%^#	Number shapes: 6,3,



