



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Plant Idol

What did plants ever do for us? Food, drink, medicine, fuel - our vital plant resource is being preserved in a global seedbank built in the icy wastes of Svalbard. We look into the importance of biodiversity, seek out relevant plants at Eden and debate which plants will guarantee our future survival.

How long? Two hours

Who? Year 7-9. Geography, Science and Citizenship.

Where? The Core workshop room, Mediterranean Biome and Rainforest Biome.

Students will:

- Investigate the ways that plants provide us with all of life's essentials.
- Develop their understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation and associated issues.
- Work as a team to undertake research and discuss issues.

Curriculum Links

KS 3 Science

Key Concepts	Range and content	Curriculum opportunities
1.2b	3.3, d. 3.4, c	c, d, g, k

KS 3 Geography

Key concepts	Range and content	Curriculum opportunities
1.6, a, b	h	b

PLTS - This workshop covers a range of PLTS (Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills) objectives including independent enquirers, team workers and creative thinkers.

What Happens?

Deep under the Arctic ice, scientists have created a £2.5 million seedbank with the ambition of conserving 6.5 million seeds. Students investigate some of the key factors in plant conservation before setting off to explore Eden's three Biomes and identify their own 'Plant Idols'.

On returning to the Core, students debate which of their plant finds should make it into the seedbank as top priority. Finally we delve a little deeper into the importance of biodiversity, and look at some of the issues surrounding biodiversity conservation, including whether there are choices we can make which will make a difference.

Practicalities



Please ensure your group is divided into workshop teams, each with an adult helper.

Our Education Team will lead your workshop session, but the participation of your staff is essential to the success of our programmes. We provide all the equipment for the workshop.

Our programmes are focussed learning experiences; they do not provide a general introduction to Eden Project, so please allow sufficient unstructured exploration time for your students during your day.

Additional information is on our website
www.edenproject.com

Plant Idol – Ideas to support your visit

References

www.croptrust.org/main/ Website of the charity behind the Arctic seedbank project, with heaps of information about biodiversity conservation.

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/default.aspx Loads of background information on biodiversity issues in the UK.

www.opalexplornature.org/?q=surveys Take part in national surveys to monitor UK biodiversity issues [Open Air Laboratories].

www.worldometers.info/ Real time world statistics. Keep tabs on population growth, food production and more.

www.adventureecology.com An opportunity for your students to get involved online tracking real life expeditions to parts of the world experiencing environmental stress.

www.diversitycode.com A witty spoof flash animation that illustrates how human wellbeing depends on biodiversity.

www.jointhepod.org EDF Energy's website helps schools take action to improve their environmental impact. Biodiversity is amongst the topics covered.

