

Step Outdoors

introduction while on the hike).

ACTIVITY

Outdoor Hike:

Take the students on a wildflower discovery hike in a wild habitat near you. Using basic flower guides have the group discover and identify 3 different flowers. Have the group record the names of these plants for use back inside.



Worksheets:

1. Review with the group the 3 flowers they discovered and identified on their hike. Using the plant identification worksheet provided, have each student complete the diagram for one plant found and colour the identifying features of each.
2. Serve a treat of Maple Syrup and crackers. Discuss where this sugary treat is found within the plant and how it is made. (Maple syrup is concentrated sugar-water produced by photosynthesis in the leaves of the plant. This food is for the plant.)

REFERENCES

Wildflowers Across the Prairies - Vance, Jowsey, McLean
Website: www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/kids/coloring

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Background Information on the Poison Ivy Plant

This Perennial plant comes up every year forming dense patches. The **stems** are woody and grow from several centimetres tall to a vine of 10 metres.

Leaves of 3 - Leave them be! The middle leaflet has a longer stalk than the 2 side leaflets; most leaves are toothed, purplish to reddish when unfolding in spring (May to early June), bright green and often shiny (with a varnished appearance) in summer and turning a vivid orange-red in autumn in sunny areas, but often lacking the bright colour in shaded places.



Poison Ivy Plant

Where does it grow? Poison-ivy occurs in forests, in edges of woodlands, meadows, fence lines, and roadsides throughout most of southern Manitoba.

Why avoid the plant? All parts including the roots, contain a poisonous substance, which causes an irritating inflammation of the skin of most people, often developing blisters and intense itchiness. The poisonous substance is an oily resin contained in the juice of the plant. Contact with any broken part of the plant, with leaves which have been chewed by insects, or with shoes, clothing, implements, or pets which have touched broken parts of the plant may cause a person with sensitive skin to react. Dry twigs in winter or dug-up roots in summer can often cause a reaction.



Poison Ivy Berries

What if I touched it? Wash the skin and clothing with a strong soap, which may prevent a reaction. If a reaction does develop, seek the advice of a physician for proper treatment.

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS OF MANITOBA WORKSHEET

Name of Plant _____

Draw and colour a picture of a plant seen on your walk and label the 4 main parts of this plant:



Where did you find this plant growing? (eg forest, prairie, pond etc)



Wild Rose



Cattail



Wild Sunflower



Lady's Slipper Orchid



Violets



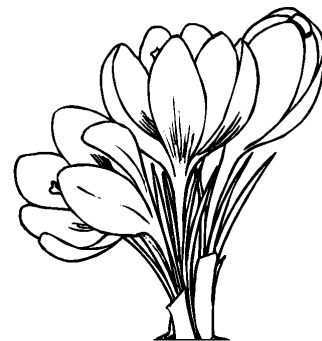
Wild Strawberry



Harebell



Fireweed



Prairie Crocus