

# PARENT HELPER GUIDE



# Introduction to Supermarket Science Biodiversity Activities

What You Need:



Words in red are vocabulary words. They are used in a word puzzle **DO** pages.



## How to Use This Book

**Supermarket Science Materials** are organized into thematically linked sets with experiments and activities as well as background information that makes them easier to do. There are also a bunch of simple, fun art and writing projects. All of the activities can be done alone or in conjunction with other project sets. Choose activities that are developmentally appropriate to your children.

All **Supermarket Science Materials** are primarily geared toward students in elementary and secondary schools, as well as their parents and teachers, but can be expanded to higher grades. The activities are designed to advance the understanding of concepts of biology, ecology, geology, and sociology based on local resources like a backyard or a local grocery store. All of the materials in this set and others link the **Core Curriculum Standards**. Use them to focus the activities to a particular grade level.

There are also **LEARN, SHOW, USE, DO, and TEACH** pages. **LEARN** pages are designed to be given to the students. They contain explanations, stories, or diagrams. **SHOW** pages usually present interesting photographs or illustrations that demonstrate specific concepts. **USE** pages are created as supplemental materials for the activities and experiments. **Plant Cards** are examples of **USE** pages. And finally, the **DO** pages contain the actual activities and experiments. Please use the back of these pages as scrap and add additional pages as needed.

Most **DO** pages have a **What You Need** list of items in the margin under the title of the activity. This is a quick reminder for what children should have while doing the activity. It might look something like a list on the right: pencil, scissors, knife, etc. Some of the activities in this set use cards. Creating taxonomies is part of the scientific process. The card games and activities allow kids an opportunity to practice this skill.

**Biodiversity** is defined as a variety of different plants and animals found in a particular environment. For these activities, we are focusing only on plant life. You want to help your children see the differences between plants we find in a supermarket versus plants that grow around their neighborhood versus plants that are native to the region. What drives this diversity?

## Main Ideas

In these activities, children are asked to analyze data and to come up with a scientific conclusion through logical reasoning.

### People and Plants

- people have been cultivating plants for thousands of years
- plant uses: food, medicine, goods, building materials, energy
- domesticated plants versus wild plants versus native plants versus urban plants

### Classification of Plants

- there are many different ways to classify plants: by use, by geographical region, by physical characteristics, by climatic regions, and so on
- instruments like microscopes, cameras, light-meters, pH meters, thermometers, calendars, and clocks can help our study of plants and their classifications
- plants can be identified using human senses: sight, smell, taste, touch, and even hearing

### Experimentation and Observation

- data collection: color, size, health and vitality

### Research

- Research basic information using visual and written information provided in these pages (a given source), a library, or some online source. We recommend [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org)

## Do More

There are many activities which can be done using information about plants and biodiversity. This set shows some possibilities. We encourage you to come up with others. Think of these activities as inspirational examples, jumping off points. Kids can share their work online. [SupermarketScience.com](http://SupermarketScience.com) will try to post kids stories, art, and projects. How are these different from each other?