



Mallow Plant Identification and Illustration - Comparing the parts of two different plants

Objective: To examine a plant's anatomy and record findings. To compare the parts of two plants and find similarities and differences. To identify the Mallow Plant, which is a food of Ladybird Butterfly larvae.

Preparation:

- Scout outside area for where a mallow plant is growing – it is a very common weed with a big tap root.
- Pull a sample of mallow and a non-mallow plant including roots.
- Gather Clip boards, paper and pencils.

Action:

1. Discuss as a group similarities and differences between the pre-pulled plants. Point to the roots first and have kids point out plant parts as you move up. Compare and contrast the plants. They all have the same parts, but they look quite different. They are different types of plants.
2. Station leader asks students to describe the non-mallow plant and draws it according to their description making it as true to form as possible to demonstrate illustration. Then students draw the mallow plant on their own sheets. Encourage students to draw what they see, not what they think the plant should look like. Focus on round leaf shape and the long stem of the mallow - distinguishing characteristics.
3. Encourage students to label the plant parts. Does it have all six?
4. Discuss the mallow plant as food and habitat for their caterpillars.
5. Questions: Do the two plants have the same parts? What is the same about the way the plants look? What is different? Do the leaves look the same? Why do you think they are both plants?
6. Have students search in a pre-determined area for mallow plant using their drawings for identification.

Wrap up:

1. Students can sing "Roots, Stems, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits and Seeds" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogW8Z7lZLNw>) by the Banana Slug String Band
2. Ask students to name the parts of the two plants. Name the characteristics that make them different from each other.
3. Can students (or a partner) find the mallow plant outside using their illustration as a guide?
4. What details would they add to their drawing to make it a more effective illustration?



Globe Mallow drawing – It has green leaves and light purple flowers.
You can color the Mallow Plant.

