



Native Plants

A **native plant** is any plant that has lived in an environment for a long time without human interference. Plants that are native have **adaptations** that make them a good fit for the specific conditions of their environment including temperature, seasonal changes, amount of water, and the other plants and animals that live nearby. The plants that you find in your neighborhood may be native or non-native (which means they are from another part of the world).

First, take a look at your backyard (or any outdoor area - green belt, park, vacant lot, etc). Sketch a simple map of the different areas of your yard, or outdoor space you are observing and number each area you are observing. pay attention to the amount of sun the different areas get. Check regularly throughout the day and record your observations in a science journal or a piece of paper. If you don't already have a science journal, simply fold a couple pieces of paper together to make a booklet. Decorate the front to make the cover and give it a title.

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