

LITERACY learning springboards

Pappus

Turning over a new leaf

Plants often feature in sayings, maxims, similes and aphorisms

Aim: Identify different types of saying and their meanings

Whilst exploring what figures of speech are, and how they are used, ask children to recall sayings that involve plants or the natural world, and to deduce why the plant was chosen to express that particular emotion, event or activity. For example, the metaphor 'to turn over a new leaf' actually refers to a page in a book, not a leaf from a plant. So why are book pages called leaves?

- Family tree (metaphor)
- Rooted in... (idiom)
- Fresh as a daisy (simile)



Riddles and codes

Logical Reasoning - A quick '10-minute task'

Aim: Create coded riddles with plant facts

- Using the *Pappus* Plant ID sheets, pupils choose a plant fact and write an identification riddle.
- Devise a code for the answer
- Other pupils work out the code used, and find the answer to the riddle.

Example:

Question. A common plant with a sting and some butterflies use it to lay their eggs.

Answer (NETTLE expressed as a code such as below)

MDSSLD
next letter of alphabet

BWRRKW
qwerty keyboard

6-3-8-8-5-3
alphanumeric pad

Persuasive writing

Why should everyone grow nettles in their garden?

Aim: Use persuasive writing techniques to 'sell' a tricky concept

Read the Pappus Plant ID sheet and the Play Springboards for nettles. Using this information, pupils should write a press release, short magazine article or blog post extolling the virtues of nettles, in order to convince gardeners to plant them in their own gardens.



Lost words

Why have 'nature' words been lost from common use?

Aim: Create acrostic poems and spells using 'lost' nature words

50 'nature' words were removed from a widely used children's dictionary, believed as they were to be 'out of common use'. The book *The Lost Words* reintroduces these words with beautiful illustrations and 'spells'.



John Muir Trust



the Lost Words

Discuss why these words might have been removed from the dictionary. What kind of words replaced them? Why was there a national outcry when their removal was revealed?

Each pupil should choose one of the lost words and create an acrostic poem or a 'spell', capturing the essence of the word and its meaning.

