

# Plant Life Study Handout

*Compare the plant species around two lakes using the WaterAtlas, guide books and a lake visit.*

**QUESTION:** What types of plants can be found growing in and around your lake?

**PLANT COLLECTION AND RESEARCH PROCEDURES:**

1. Go to [www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org](http://www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org) > The Atlas > your chosen lake > Ecology > Plant List. What kind of lakes have been reported around your lake? Look over the plants listed. Follow the links and view the descriptions and photos. Make a list with photos. Give credit for the information and print.
2. Go to the lake with class. You will need your clipboard, pencil, field guide to plants, your list of plants and sketch paper.
3. Take 5 to 10 minutes to walk around the lake and observe the different types of plants growing in and around the water.
4. If possible take pictures of plants you want to identify.
5. Use your field guide to identify at least five different plant species.
6. For each species you should have a sketch and the name recorded underneath the sketch.
7. Once you have all of your sketches and plants identified return to classroom.
8. For each plant you identified you will need to research.
9. For your research you will need to answer the following questions:
  - a) What is the common name?
  - b) What is the scientific name?
  - c) What type of plant is it and what does the plant look like?
  - d) Where would you most likely find this plant growing (habitat)?
  - e) Is the plant native to Florida?
  - f) Is the plant toxic?
  - g) Are there any uses for the plant?
10. Plant research should be turned in typed in a neatly organized structure.
11. Be sure to turn in a reference page. (a list of sources you used to find information)
12. The teacher may ask for a copy of your research paper on disk.

**COMPARING AND CONTRASTING YOUR LAKE PLANTS WITH PLANTS OF OTHER LAKE**

**SYSTEMS:** Now you have done all of the hard work it is time to compare your discoveries with other lake systems in Seminole county.

1. Have a copy of the plants you identified from Your Lake.
2. Go to [www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org](http://www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org) > The Atlas > your chosen lake > Ecology > List of Plant Species.
3. It will bring up an inventory list of plant species found at that water body. If there is no data you will need to choose another lake.
4. If the plant name has a link beside it you can click on the link and it will bring up photos and additional information on the plant. Click on links to get information and photos.
5. Pick at least five plants to compare with the five you identified. The plants can be the same species.

Name:

Date:

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**CONCLUSION:** Answer the following questions based on your research and what you find on the website.

1. How would you classify the majority of plants you identified? Trees, shrubs, wildflowers, aquatic plants?
2. Are a majority of the plants found around your lake native to Florida or not?
3. Are any of the plants you identified also found at the other lake? Explain.
4. Are a majority of the plants found at the other lake Florida natives or not?
5. Write a brief summary of the similarities and differences between the two lakes.

Name:

Date: