

Welcome to this first edition of the Linnean Learning Update. This bi-monthly newsletter will be our new way of engaging with our community of educators, sharing insights into our projects and the natural world.

The theme for this update is on the surprisingly active realm of vegetation and our perceptions of this kingdom. Do plants feel? Do they fight and remember things? What relationships do we have with our leafy neighbours, and what is in their future here on Planet Earth?

A 'New Portrait' Awarded



Inspired by the Society's new acquisition (right) by historic botanical artist John Tyley, we asked budding artists to create self-portraits alongside a plant that is meaningful to them.

We received many gorgeous portraits in a

variety of styles from across the world, and

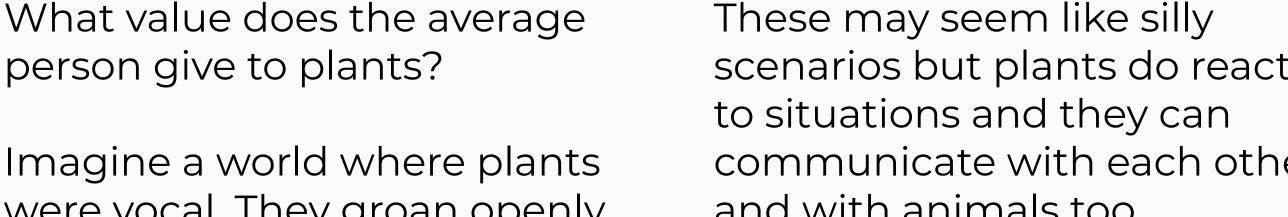
the staff at the Society awarded 11-yearold-Emily from Hampshire 1st Place for the enigmatic portrait in the banner of this update. Congratulations to Emily! The Linnean Society is home to over 2,400 portraits in various media but are often of

people who are all... quite... similar, shall we say.

The New Portrait Competition creates a space

in our building for new, vibrant portraits that are celebrated and displayed for all visitors to see. Click the link icon above to see the other winners, including from previous years, and stay

tuned for the next year's competition! Are plants intelligent?



were vocal. They groan openly as you walk down the street, casting shadows over them. They mutter when you leave your car engine running. They cry as you run through fields, and sing when the sun breaks through thick clouds.

scenarios but plants do react communicate with each other and with animals too.

You can 'discover more' about plant intelligence through our dedicated blog and series of animations on the topic which present scientific studies as easy-to-digest stories and facts.



Story time!



Carl Linnaeus realised that all plants were unique by using his observation skills and noticing that plants open and close at different times of the day. He then thought he could engineer a garden that tells the time.

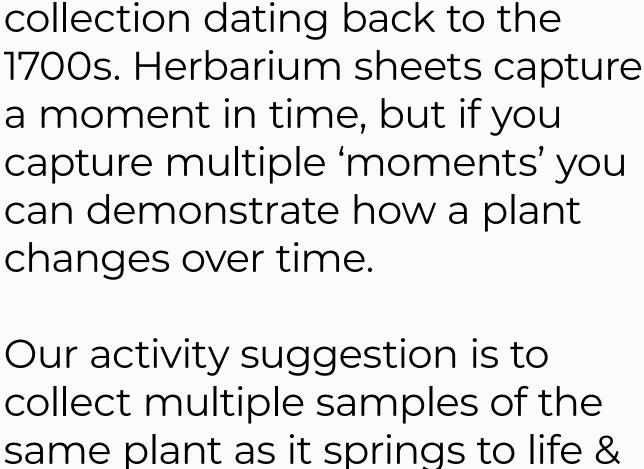
'Flower Power Time' is a fourminute video covering some key themes: working scientifically (finding patterns), identifying structures of plants, exploring life cycles, and thinking about adaptations.

worksheet is available to download (link above).

A transcript and a basic activity

We are big fans of pressed

plants, with our own precious



create a pressed plant gallery. Special 'Plant' species @





activities) is available in Linnaeus at Home. You might introduce your students to Maria Sibylla Merian,

for creating botanical artworks showing in one illustration how several insects go through metamorphosis.

an artist who was renowned

tool, Special species, to generate new (realistic) animals, explore their possible characteristics,

Many of you will have used our educational



and name them scientifically... but have you ever used it for plants? Plants use the same two-part naming system as animals do, so you could ask your students to create a plant rather than an animal. "Red-

reference thorns. Send us your creations, and they might be featured on our dedicated instagram page, like this one: Emico flos, aka the scented squirter, by Christina, age 17, Cardiff, UK.

arm" could indicate a red stem, "teeth" could



with nature.

This flower is adapted so it can squirt out a strong scent produced to attract bees to pollinate the flower to

reproduce. It is found in warm tropical environments, and on the floors of rainforests.

Climate change and biodiversity loss is happening across the

cherish our colourful friends, not only as providers of food, clothes and medicines, but as the facilitators to all life on Planet Earth. Linnean Learning believes that we protect nature by understanding and valuing it, and so we provide resources, training opportunities,

and grants to encourage the sustained engagement of young people

kingdoms and the plant kingdom is no exception. We need to

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