

# PLANT

Stories

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I am a small plant. Gardeners love me because I can hold up to 20 times my weight in water. I am different from others of my kind since I have small branch clusters. I can be found growing mainly in the Northern Hemisphere. Who am I?

peat moss



I am a small plant. I have horn shaped branches. I can be found all over the world but you have to look for me in damp, shady places. I use spores to reproduce. Who I am?

hornwort



I have lived on the earth for millions of years. Since the last ice age I can only be found naturally growing in China and Japan. Gardeners all over the world like to have me in their gardens. My fan shaped leaves do not have a central vein which makes me unique. What am I?

ginkgo



My bright yellow fruit grows in clusters hanging from my large red flower. I grow in warm tropical climates. My large green leaves droop down from my large stem. What am I?

banana



I grow from a bulb and produce a single flower on top of a short stem. Some people think that I came from Holland, but I really came from Turkey. I am planted in gardens and am often one of the first flowers to come up in spring. What am I?

tulip



I am a plant that grows on the surface of trees for support. I am not a parasite. I absorb water and nutrients through my leaves and stems. Native Americans called me tree hair but my name has changed through the years. What am I?

Spanish moss



I am the tallest member of the grass family and in ancient Asia I was used to make paper. I can grow as much as 6 inches in one day. I am eaten by the panda bear in China as well as used for medicine to treat infections. What am I?

bamboo



I first made my appearance during the Paleozoic era. I do not have leaves, but my stems are green. I get my name because I look like the tail of a horse. My stems have scale like structures on them. I prefer to live in wet sandy or clay soil. What am I?

horsetail

SET 1



I am a tall tree with long drooping branches. I usually grow along stream beds and my long slender green leaves fall in the winter. The ancients used my bark and leaves for medicinal purposes. This is understandable since I contain the same ingredient that is also in aspirin. Tell me my name.

willow tree



I am a tree that usually grows in tropical or subtropical areas. My leaves form a crown at the top of my long trunk. Many parts of me can be used to help man, from my fruit such as dates or coconuts, to the oil from my trunk. Some people even eat the center of my trunk. Tell me my name.

palm tree



I am the most simple of plants. I do not have any true leaves or roots. I have small growths on my stem called enations. I live in tropical and subtropical climates, and may have arrived during the Devonian period. What am I?

whisk fern



My stems grow clusters of small, yellow flowers which develop into sweet red fruit. My stems and leaves are slightly rough and fuzzy. I am native to Central and South America. Aztecs and other people of the area would use me in their cooking. What am I?

tomato



I was originally from Africa and like to grow in warm, moist places. Now I am usually grown as a houseplant. Often my leaves are covered with fine hairs. My flowers are small and may be white, pink, or purple. What am I?

African violet



I am a very ancient plant. I have a spray of thick dark leaves that can be sharp. I have a thick trunk and can grow very tall. However, I take a long time to grow and can live from 50 to 100 years. Be careful, all parts of me are toxic! What am I?

sago palm



I am native to the west coast of North America. I have branches with alternating leaves attached which grow out from my center. I like to grow on the floor of coniferous forests. My spores are a light yellow and can be found on the underside of my leaves. What am I?

sword fern



I am a tall coniferous tree that grows naturally at mountains of the Himalaya and Mediterranean. My wood is strong and usually has a spicy scent. My needles grow close together in a spiral. My oil is known as a natural repellent to moths. What am I?

cedar tree

SET 2



I am a plant that has long slender leaves and my flowers are large, beautiful, and come in many colors. Each flower lasts only one day, opening at sunrise and withering at sunset. I am used in gardens all over the world. What am I?

day lily



I am an evergreen plant that grows in the hot dry climates of North and Central America, and the West Indies. My leaves are long and slender and from them grows a tall stalk. On this grows clusters of white flowers. I am pollinated by one type of moth that lays its eggs in each of my flowers. When it hatches it eats some of my seeds, but not all. What am I?

yucca



I am a grass that is grown worldwide. My seeds are ground into flour to make breads, cakes, cookies and many other foods. In the United States I am grown in the plain states and they are known as America's bread basket for this reason. What am I?

wheat



I am the state flower of Tennessee. I come in a large variety of colors, growing from rhizomes. My flower blooms on the top of a tall stalk which has sword shaped leaves. I am used to decorate gardens around the world. Vincent van Gogh painted several famous pictures with me in them.

iris



I am a bush that grows in warm climates. My woody stems support a large, bright flower. I come in many colors, but usually in red, yellow, white or pink. In Hawaii, I am worn by young girls tucked behind their ears symbolizing their availability for marriage. What am I?

hibiscus



I am a plant that grows out of the ground and usually on trees. I have no flowers, but reproduce by spores. I get my name from the shape of my leaves which look like the horns of a male deer. What am I?

staghorn fern



My wood is strong and is often used to make furniture. My seed, called an acorn, is food for many animals living in my branches. I am often used as a symbol of strength and may be pictured on shields of governments.

oak tree



I am a fruit that grows in tropical climates. At the top of my fruit is a crown of spiked leaves. The flesh of my yellow fruit may be eaten raw. I am usually pollinated by hummingbirds, although some of me can be pollinated by bats. What am I?

pineapple

SET 3



I have been grown in tropical areas for thousands of years. After my flower is gone, the fibers that appear are spun into cloth. When the Northern Europeans of the Middle Ages first heard about me they could not imagine me. My description was of a tree that had tiny lambs on its branches. What am I?

cotton



I am one of the oldest flowering plants. My leaves are large and shiny and my flower has large white petals. Because I was on the earth before bees, I was pollinated by beetles. This is why my petals are so large and thick. When the beetles come to pollinate, they will not bend my petals. What am I?

magnolia



My small tree produces a fruit that is the most widely grown fruit on earth. My white and pink blossoms bud at the same time that my leaves appear. My fruit is ready to eat in the autumn. I am thought to have started in ancient China. Tell me what I am.

apple tree



I can grow up to 3 feet high and my large flower about 1 foot across. I have bright yellow petals and I get my name because I follow the path of the sun across the sky. My seeds are used as a snack all over the world. What am I?

sunflower



I am a parasite that lives in trees. My small, shiny leaves and white berries are often used as a symbol at Christmas. But be careful, don't eat me! I will give you a terrible stomach ache. However, other animals eat me when I am young. What am I?

mistletoe



I am a tall grass that is one of the biggest crops grown in the United States. I grow on tall stalks with large leaves. My ears are surrounded in layered leaves. What you know as silk is actually the stigma of the flowers. What am I?

corn



I am a very large tree that originally grew in the south east region of the United States. My name comes from the Algonquian Indians and means "nut which needs a stone to crack". My wood is strong and is often used to make furniture. Do you know my name?

pecan



I am from the largest family of flowering plants. The vanilla bean that you use for flavoring comes from one of my family members. My beautiful flowers are often grown by gardeners, but I do need hot, moist air. Most of my family members grow in the ground, some however, grow as parasites on trees. What am I?

orchid

SET 4





I am a plant that grows low to the ground. However, it is not my leaves, stems or flowers that you prize. I am a member of the legume family and am not a nut. It is thought that I was first grown by people in South America. I am a good source of protein. What am I?

peanut



I am a small plant that has no flowers. My leaves are usually flat with an irregular shape. I get my name because in ancient times people thought that I cured liver disease, especially since my leaves may resemble the shape of liver. My true value is in helping to create top soil and keeping it in place. Tell me my name.

liverwort



I am a short plant that reproduces by spores. I have no flowers, but I was used by photographers over 150 years ago. The spores were dried and then lit. When they burned they gave off a strong light. What am I?

club moss



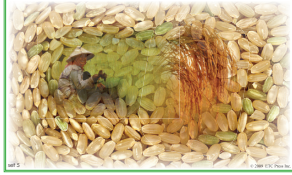
I am an evergreen tree that lives in all parts of the Northern Hemisphere. My seeds are in cones, which are eaten by many animals. However, the small seeds have wings. My wood is often used for building. Tell me my name.

pine tree



I am a shrub that lives in dry areas mainly in the Northern Hemisphere. I have been used by Native Americans to relieve colds, hay fever, and congestion when made as a tea. What am I?

jointfir



I am a short grass that is the major source of food for Africa and Asia. I have been grown for over 3500 years. I am planted in flooded paddies and grow this way until harvested. The people of China eat more of me than anybody else in the world. What am I?

rice



I am a type of succulent plant that lives well in the desert. My stem will swell up to hold water allowing me to survive during dry seasons, and in very hot and dry areas. I protect myself with sharp needles. However, even with these sharp needles, many animals use me for homes or food. What am I?

cactus



I am an evergreen tree that grows in the forests of North America and eastern Asia. My needles grow straight from my branches. My cones are unusual because they also have outer cone scales called bracts. I can live for thousands of years due to my thick bark. What am I?

Douglas-fir

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