

## Dangerous Plants



**Topic:** Plants and environment

**Curriculum link:** Living Things; Environment

**Text type:** Explanation

**Reading level:** 6

**Word count:** 115

**High-frequency words:** some, are, you, from, stay, away, these, should, make, your

**Vocabulary:** plants, hurt, thorns, dangerous, spikes, skin, itch, sting, leaves, poisonous, berries, flowers

**Possible literacy focus:**

Understanding the language of explanations.

Reading labels to identify the critical part to avoid on each of the identified plants.

Using an index to find information.

## Follow-up activities

### Discuss

After reading the book, ask the children:

*Who has seen any of these plants before? Where?*

*Are there other plants that could be included in this book? What are they?*

*Did any of the information surprise you? What?*

*What was the author trying to explain to his audience?*

*How did the author present the information?*

*What parts of the book did you find interesting?*

*Apart from the text and pictures, what else helped you find information in this book?*

*What extra information would you like to know about this topic?*

### Innovate on the text

Ask the children to make their own books. They can use the structure of *Dangerous Plants*, but they can call it *Dangerous Animals*. For example:

This tiger is dangerous.  
It has sharp teeth that can bite you.  
Stay away from this tiger.

Encourage children to draw the animal and label the part of the animal that is dangerous.

### Helpful plants

Encourage children to think beyond the text as they compare what they have learned about dangerous plants with what they know about plants that can be helpful to us. *Are all plants dangerous? Are there some plants that are helpful to us?* Ask the children to browse through other books about plants to get ideas.

With the children, fill in a chart like the one below.

Plants that help us	How they help us
Vegetables	Keep us healthy
Trees	Give us shade, shelter, wood
Flowers	Pollen for bees to make honey

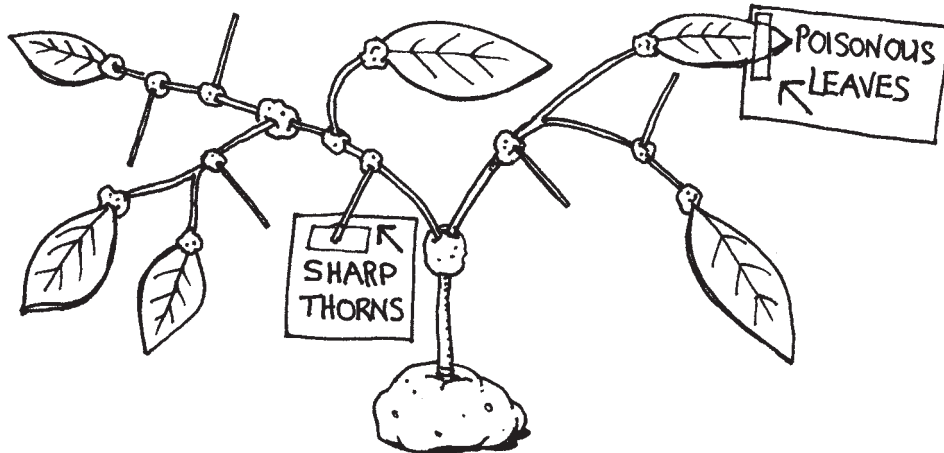
# Make a dangerous plant



You will need:

paper, sticks, glue, scissors, playdough

1. Make a model of a dangerous plant.
2. Attach labels to show why the plant is dangerous.



---

# Plant poster



You will need:

large sheet of poster paper, felt pens





1. Make a poster about plants that are dangerous to people.
2. Write a heading for your poster.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Cloze

Write in the words.

Plant	What part is dangerous?
rose 	This plant has thorns. _____ thorns can hurt you. Stay away _____ these thorns.
cactus 	This plant is dangerous because it has spikes. You _____ stay away _____ the spikes.
poison ivy 	You should stay away from this plant. Its leaves _____ dangerous and can hurt _____ skin. The leaves make _____ itch.
nettle 	This plant can sting you. Its leaves are dangerous and can hurt you. Stay _____ from it.

Words to use.

from	are	should	you
from	your	these	away

**Instructions** Ask the children to write in the missing words from the list. They may like to cross out each word once they have used it.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Design and write

Design your own dangerous plant.



Write about your plant.

---

---

Words you might use.

plants	hurt	thorns	dangerous
spikes	skin	itch	sting
leaves	poisonous	berries	flowers