



Know & Show Sombrero

UConn 4-H STEM Lab

This activity will explore what plants need to grow and thrive. You will illustrate 3-5 of those needs on a unique wearable sculpture that you will create using the materials in your kit plus some tape, scissors and other readily available supplies.

Supplies and Tools

Newsprint and construction paper

Balloons, feathers, and pipe cleaners

Scissors, crayons, tape and glue

Other natural materials



Activity Steps

Visuals

1. Take the two pieces of the newsprint in your kit and lay them side by side on a flat surface. Tape the two pieces together so they form one large piece of paper.



2. Have someone else place the newsprint over your head and push down so the paper takes on the shape of your head like a hat. Take a long piece of tape and have them tape the paper around your head to it will keep its shape. Make sure to go all the way around the head.



3. Curl up the edges of the newsprint to form the brim of the hat. If the newsprint is having a hard time holding its shape, you can use a bit more tape.



4. Using the materials in your kit and other natural items or items around the room to decorate your hat. Use the materials to symbolize all the plant needs on your hat. No words, just images, symbols and other visual aids.



5. Show off your new Know & Show Sombrero to others educating them on what the different symbols on your hat stand for. Wear your sombrero proudly.



Bonus Activity: Work with your team to come up with examples of how we depend on plants for the air we breathe, the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the shelter we rely on to keep us safe from the elements. See how many different ideas you can come up with making a list for each of the ones listed above.

How might you represent some of these on your sombrero?

Watch This: Do you want to learn more about what plants need in order to grow and flourish? Check out this short YouTube video that talks about the five things that all plants need.

youtu.be/SeyYHER6fkw?si=yli5Q4uVuoFbt8b

Activity adapted from “*Learn, Grow, Eat & Go*” by 4-H Junior Master Gardener, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, 2015



We want to know what you thought of this activity. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey. You can access it by the QR code on the left or going to s.uconn.edu/4hstem2026.

If you enjoyed this project, visit s.uconn.edu/4-h to learn more about **UConn 4-H**. Check out the **UConn Extension YouTube** page to view the video associated with this activity.

You can also find more fun, hands-on learning activities at **Clover by 4-H**. To discover a wide selection of 4-H activities and online courses, visit 4-H.org/Clover.

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