

So Ya Wanna Be A Botanist?!?!



Botanists are detectives of the plant world. Just like police detectives, botanists ask specific questions to solve mysteries. The mystery that botanists often solve is “**What is this plant?**” By collecting enough evidence, you too may be able to crack this case. Good luck!

CLUES and EVIDENCE

Detective’s Name/s _____ When (date found)? _____
Where (location/habitat)? _____
What (grows near it)? _____

What does the plant LOOK like?

How big is it? Height _____ (inches/feet) Width _____ (in/ft)
Does it have? Leaves Needles Scales
Is the stem hard (woody) or soft (herbaceous)? _____
Does it have? Cones Flowers Seeds
What color is it? _____ Are all parts the same color? Yes No

Flowers None

Color of flower? _____
Where is flower on plant? _____
Number of petals? _____
Shape of petals? _____

Leaves

Size: _____
Shape: _____
Where and how do they attach to the plant?

Can you see veins in the leaf? If yes, describe.

Does the plant have a SCENT?

If yes, describe: _____

Do all plant parts smell the same?
 Yes No
Explain: _____

What does the plant FEEL like?

Does it have? Thorns Prickles
Are the leaves spiny, soft, rough, or smooth?

Is the bark? (circle) ROUGH SMOOTH
If the plant doesn’t have bark, describe the stem:

Seeds and Berries

Shape and Size? _____
Color and Texture? _____
Where are seeds on plant? _____

Is this plant? Alone Common
Grows? Close together Spread out