

Morphology Bingo for Botany classes - TEACHER GUIDE

Developed by Dr. Lena Struwe

Level: K-99 (all levels). The bingo sheets I use are for college level intro botany but can be modified.

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Learning goals: Practice morphology terminology used in plant descriptions, keys, and general botany. Learn how to 'see' plants (less plant blindness), practice biodiscovery and scanning the environment for details in 'small, green things'.

How-to:

1. Provide students with a list of morphological terms they should know and give them 2 weeks to study them (with or without lecture about it, up to you, but provide a good source of definitions and images so they can study efficiently)
2. Set a date for the morphology bingo in class, so the students know the deadline.
3. I have an excel file with 3 levels of difficulty - easy, medium, hard (and superhard for PhD students). Modify it so it fits your terminology list.
4. When students come to class, you will run a 40 min morphology bingo. I run it in teams of 1-3 students, and each group gets a small ziplock bag or small paper bag. The task is to go outside the classroom and find as many examples of living plant parts on campus that fit the terms in the bingo boxes within the time limit. How many 5-in-a row can each group get?
5. Plant parts should be small (fit inside the bingo square, no big maple leaves!), and clearly show the feature in the word.
6. When time is up, the team comes back to the classroom and the teacher provides scotch tape to tape in all plant parts they have found in the right bingo boxes. (You will need a lot of tape and several dispensers!)
7. Teams hand in their work (plants taped to bingo sheet), and teacher then grades it for 1) effort and 2) results. I give each participating student a base grade, and then extra points to the winners (most boxes filled in, most 5-in-a row, and/or least amount of mistakes). Students get their sheets back next class and can check what they got right or wrong. I do not use this as an exam or test. I use this activity as a way for them to practice 'seeing' plant morphology and scanning with their eyes for particular morphological traits.

See next page for some images of this activity from my classes.



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