Botanize & Reflect
Weekly Worksheet

Course: Intro to Botany (Undergraduate level)
Assignment Title: Botanize & Reflect Weekly Worksheet
Due: Every Sunday by 11:59 PM
Submission Format: Canvas submission page
Purpose: This weekly reflection encourages hands-on exploration and personal engagement with plants. Using the *Let's Botanize: 101 Ways to Connect with Plants* prompts aligned with our weekly topic, you'll deepen your understanding of botanical concepts through observation, journaling, and photography.

Instructions (Repeat Weekly)

1. Read: Open *Let's Botanize: 101 Ways to Connect with Plants* to the assigned weekly prompt (see course calendar). Read the prompt carefully, noting the theme and guiding questions.

2. Explore & Engage: Follow the activity. This may include plant observation, sketching, sensory engagement, or environmental inquiry.

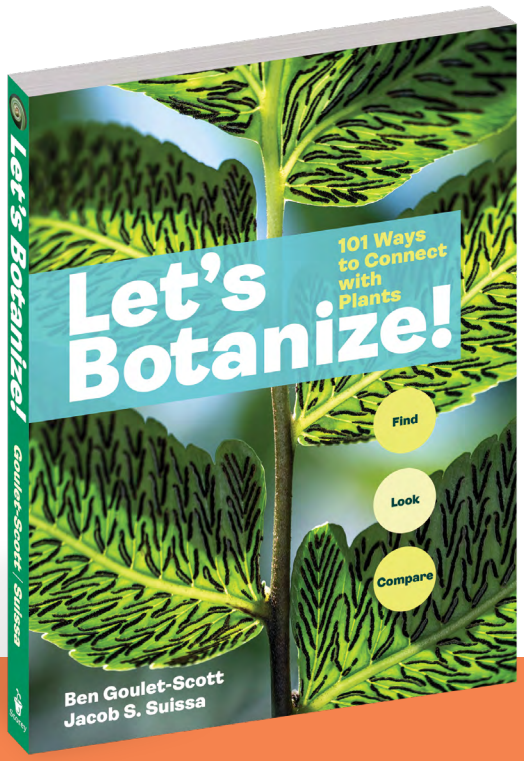
3. Photo Post: Take a photo that captures your experience or a plant specimen related to the prompt. This should be original and taken by you that week.

4. Write Your Reflection: (Approx. 250-300 words) Address the following:
- What did you observe, discover, or feel while completing the prompt?
- How does this connect with what we discussed in class this week? (Include 1-2 relevant botany terms or concepts.)
- What questions or curiosities came up for you?

5. Format :
Title: Week # and Prompt Title
Reflection Paragraph
Embedded Photo with short caption (1 sentence)

Grading Criteria (10 pts/week)

CRITERIA	POINTS
Completed Prompt & Photo	3 pts
Thoughtful Reflection	4 pts
Botanical Concepts Integrated	2 pts
Clarity & Presentation	1 pt



Week 1: Cells and tissues

Prompt 4 (p. 22): Compare the textures and colors of the upper and lower surfaces of a leaf

Prompt 17 (p. 48): What is the waxiest plant part you can find?

Prompt 21 (p. 56): Compare the textures of several different leaves

Week 2: Roots

Prompt 5 (p. 24): Can you find the growing tip of a root?

Prompt 19 (p. 52): Can you find a root growing aboveground?

Prompt 20 (p. 54): How far from the trunk can you follow a tree root?

Week 3: Stems, leaves, branches

Prompt 16 (p. 46): Can you find the patterns of nodes repeated along a branch?

Prompt 42 (p. 98): Can you find the portion of a seedling where the stem and the root meet?

Prompt 62 (p. 140): Can you identify the oldest and youngest leaves on a branch?

Week 4: Development

Prompt 35 (p. 85): Describe the color of a newly emerging leaf

Prompt 54 (p. 124): Can you find two different-looking leaves on the same individual plant?

Prompt 97 (p. 212): Compare a wild rose flower to a rose in a florist's bouquet

Week 5: Photosynthesis

Prompt 37 (p. 88): Can you find a tree or shrub with a green stem?

Prompt 99 (p. 216): Place a leaf in a plastic bag for a day

Prompt 100 (p. 219): Can you see the structures plants use to breathe?

Week 6: Reproduction

Prompt 52 (p. 120): Can you guess how a flower is pollinated based on its appearance?

Prompt 68 (p. 152): Can you find a plant that produces pollen and seeds in separate flowers?

Prompt 69 (p. 154): How many different plants can you find that freely disperse spores?

Week 7: Origin of land plants/Bryophytes

Prompt 30 (p. 74): Explore the detail of a moss leaf

Prompt 31 (p. 76): Can you find where a moss produces its spores?

Prompt 50 (p. 116): Look for a mossy habitat

Prompt 71 (p. 158): Can you find an alga?

Week 8: Vascular tissue (xylem and phloem)

Prompt 1 (p. 16): Look closely at the patterns of leaf veins of two different species

Prompts 23 (p. 60): Can you find a leaf with parallel veins?

Prompts 51 (p. 118): What is the tallest moss you can find?

Week 9: Wood

Prompt 73 (p. 163): Revisit a tree with carving in its bark. Has the location of that carving ever changed?

Prompts 82 (p. 182): How old is the wood in your furniture?

Prompt 91 (p. 200): Try to guess how much a tree weighs

Week 10: Ferns and lycophytes

Prompt 6 (p. 26): Compare a fern leaf that is visually complex to another that is simpler

Prompt 32 (p. 78): Can you find where a fern produces its spores?

Prompt 69 (p. 154): How many different plants can you find that freely disperse spores?

Week 11: Seeds/Gymnosperms

Prompt 22 (p. 58): Examine the broad leaves or needles of an evergreen tree

Prompt 36 (p. 87): Can you find a young pine cone?

Prompt 40 (p. 94): What are the smallest and largest seeds you can find?

Week 12: Flowers, fruits, seeds

Prompt 9 (p. 32): Compare a flower with fused petals to one with separate petals

Prompt 39 (p. 92): Can you find a fruit with many seeds and another with one seed?

Prompt 70 (p. 156): Compare a ripe fruit from your kitchen to one you find outside

Week 13: Symbiosis

Prompt 47 (p. 110): Can you find a plant growing on another plant?

Prompt 57 (p. 131): Can you find a plant with no green parts?

Prompt 84 (p. 186): Count the number of other species living on and around one tree

Week 14: Plant defense

Prompt 27 (p. 68): Can you find plants with three different kinds of sharp projections?

Prompt 46 (p. 108): What is the most brightly colored plant part you can find that is not a flower or fruit?

Prompt 87 (p. 192): Has a plant hurt you recently?

Week 15: Plants and human affairs

Prompt 75 (p. 166): Crush up a leaf and describe its smell

Prompt 79 (p. 176): Keep track of the number of plant species you eat today

Prompt 80 (p. 178): During your next meal, pay attention to how many different parts of a plant you eat

In many cases there are additional prompts that fit into each topic!

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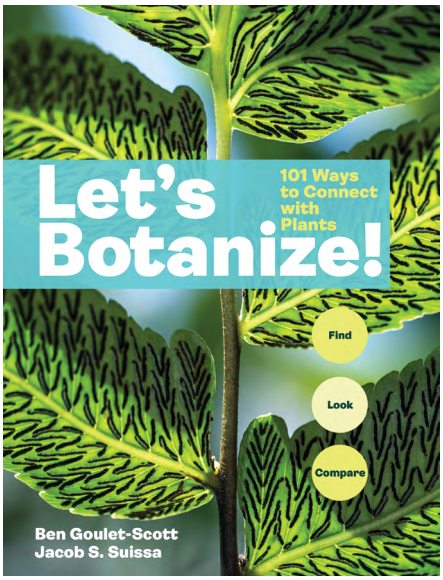

Let's Botanize

101 Ways to Connect with Plants

By Ben Goulet-Scott & Jacob S. Suissa

About the Authors

Ben Goulet-Scott, Ph.D. and Jacob S. Suissa, Ph.D. are the co-founders and directors of Let's Botanize, an educational non-profit that promotes the hobby of botanizing by sharing plant stories. Their motto is: a care for plants is a care for the planet. Goulet-Scott and Suissa earned their doctorate degrees in evolutionary biology at Harvard University. Goulet-Scott currently designs and manages higher education programming at Harvard Forest, the ecology-focused research station of Harvard University in Massachusetts. Suissa is currently an Assistant Professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Find them teaching at in-person school events, presenting hands-on seminars and lectures, and on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube @letsbotanize.

Paperback | Pages: 240 | On Sale: 2/24/2026 | ISBN: 978-1-63586-904-0 | $19.95 US

"The *Let's Botanize* book encourages students to move beyond the confines of the classroom and to directly engage with the natural world. Observation, curiosity, reflection, and connection are what I hope my students will take away from my course, and this book is a valuable tool to help facilitate these practices and their appreciation for plants."

—**Dr. Morgan Furze, Assistant Professor,** Purdue University, Botany & Plant Pathology

"I'm excited to incorporate *Let's Botanize* into my IB 103 Introduction to Plant Biology course! As an introductory class, IB 103 aims to help students understand plant life cycles, structure, and function, while fostering a genuine appreciation for plants. The book's prompts will be very useful for shaping weekly lab sessions and guiding students' observations."

—**Dr. Min Ya, Assistant Professor,** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Integrative Biology

"The *Let's Botanize* book carries the spirit of the original social media posts with short, engaging, and approachable ways to engage with plants. This book could be used in Plant Biology courses as prompts for laboratory investigations, field experiments, homework assignments, reflections, as well as an accessible reference. Additionally, this book would also shine in a non-majors botany course to introduce botanical principles, in approachable, digestible lessons."

—**Dr. Andrea Berardi, Assistant Professor,** James Madison University, Biology

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