

Plant Clue Sort

Use physical clues to classify plants by how they reproduce.

SC.3.L.15.2 "Classify flowering and nonflowering plants into major groups such as those that produce seeds, or those like ferns and mosses that produce spores, according to their physical characteristics."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell what a plant has or makes. Write 1 by flowering seed plants, 2 by nonflowering seed plants, and 3 by spore-producing plants.

Maya's Park Plant Sort

- ① On a walk through Pine Grove Park, Maya sorted plants by what she could see. The rose bush had bright flowers. Inside a flower, seeds can form after pollen reaches it. A pine tree had no flowers, but it made cones that held seeds. Maya put both plants in the seed-producing group because each plant makes seeds.
- ② Near a damp rock, Maya found a fern with long, divided leaves called fronds. Tiny brown cases on the undersides of its fronds release spores. A spore is very small and can grow into a new plant in the right place. She also saw soft moss. Moss makes spores, not flowers, fruits, cones, or seeds of its own.
- ③ Maya used physical clues to sort plants. Flowering plants have flowers and usually make fruits with seeds. Nonflowering seed plants, such as pine trees, have cones with seeds and often have needlelike leaves. Ferns have fronds and make spores. Mosses are small, soft plants that also make spores instead of seeds. A plant's clues help show its group.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Classify the rose bush and the pine tree as flowering or nonflowering. Then tell whether each makes seeds or spores.

2

What physical clue helps Maya classify the fern as a spore-producing plant?

3

How are the fern and the moss alike in Maya's sorting?

4

What clue shows that a pine tree is a nonflowering seed plant, not a spore-producing plant?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Make a sorting chart for three plants. Add one flowering seed plant, one nonflowering seed plant, and one spore-producing plant. For each plant, write a physical clue that supports its group.

PLANT	PHYSICAL CLUE	PLANT GROUP

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell what a plant has or makes. Write 1 by flowering seed plants, 2 by nonflowering seed plants, and 3 by spore-producing plants. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Classify the rose bush and the pine tree as flowering or nonflowering. Then tell whether each makes seeds or spores.	The rose bush is a flowering plant that makes seeds. The pine tree is a nonflowering plant that makes seeds.
2	What physical clue helps Maya classify the fern as a spore-producing plant?	Tiny brown cases on the undersides of the fern's fronds release spores.
3	How are the fern and the moss alike in Maya's sorting?	Both are spore-producing plants. They make spores instead of seeds.
4	What clue shows that a pine tree is a nonflowering seed plant, not a spore-producing plant?	A pine tree has cones that hold seeds. It does not have flowers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

PLANT	PHYSICAL CLUE	PLANT GROUP
Sunflower	Flower and seeds	Flowering seed plant
Spruce tree	Cones with seeds	Nonflowering seed plant
Fern	Fronds with brown spore cases	Spore-producing plant

Accept other accurate examples when the physical clue matches the group. Spore-producing examples may include ferns or mosses, and nonflowering seed plant examples may include pine, spruce, or fir trees.