



American Society of Plant Biologists presents...

Plant Science Podcasts

Plant Detective

Follow www.floradelaterre.com → Radio Show → Audio Archives. Here you will find at least 100 episodes of *The Plant Detective*, a radio show created by Beth Judy and starring Flora Delaterre (voiced by Judy). The 90-second show features the world-wide adventures of Detective Delaterre as she searches for specific medicinal plants and discourses on their benefits, risks and efficacy. Flora's motto is "Medicinal plants are everywhere and you've got to treat 'em right, cause some day, they might be treating you." Judy emphasizes that her goal is conservation rather than promoting self-care with plants. Judy believes that people will gain greater respect for plants if they learn how directly plants can impact their health. The ASPB Education Foundation provides grant funds for this program.

MicrobeWorld

Follow the link: <http://www.microbeworld.org/look/radio.aspx> → Archives or Podcasts. Tune in to the *MicrobeWorld Radio* website to find audio files or podcasts of the daily series' 90-second episodes which focus on the importance of microbes across the life sciences. Each *MicrobeWorld* show features an interview segment with an expert researcher. Themes range from the process of discovery, historical changes in research, and microbiology-related careers. Some episodes which focus specifically on plant biology are co-sponsored by the ASPB Education Foundation.

A Moment of Science

At the site for *A Moment of Science*, <http://amos.indiana.edu/>, click on 'Library' to access scripts, archived recordings and pod casts to answer literally thousands of questions about science. The website promises that, "If you are even a little bit interested in the world around you these two-minute radio programs are just for you--and you don't need to know anything about science! These vignettes remove some of the mystery from science, but not the wonder. *A Moment of Science* makes you think 'Wow, that's neat!' and go tell somebody else about it." Users can search for particular topics. Listeners even can add to the list by sending questions to amos@indiana.edu. *A Moment of Science* is an ASPB Education Foundation project supported by ASPB's Good Works Fund.

See the next page for activities to enhance learning with the podcasts.

Critical Thinking Activities for the Podcasts

Select audio episodes that coordinate with current teaching units, follow your selected program in chronological order, or just tune in to what sounds cool!

1. Turn your computer into a traditional listening station. Let *students* create 1-3 comprehension questions for each segment they hear. Future listeners can answer or update the questions. Pairs or small groups can revisit episodes to discuss and edit corrections or additions to the questions & answers.
2. Use the content-rich episodes for dictation exercises. Fun, incidental learning can double the efficacy of practicing mechanics (and free you from reading aloud). Use only a portion of the soundtrack and/or repeat segments as often as is needed.
3. Let students summarize the key points of content for a note taking exercise.
4. Begin a class session by listening to a 90-second episode. This auditory alternative to traditional white-board warm-ups is a great way to get focused.
5. Listen as a class to one episode. Break into small groups. One person per group thinks of a fact or summary statement from the episode and whispers it to the closest person. The fact/statement gets passed 'telephone' style to each person in the group. The last person shares the version s/he hears. Get ready to laugh (and then correct any mistakes)!
6. Download an episode's script so readers can learn new terms and concepts by both reading and listening.
7. Ask students to illustrate the key details of the episode.
8. Create 10-20 second sound bites based on an episode that students can 'air' via the daily school announcements. Be sure to add a 'sponsored by' tag line.
9. Compare and contrast the content or style of two radio episodes. Students can present the analyses graphically, orally, and/or in writing.
10. Guide students to study an episode's format, style and content so they can create their own versions of an audio presentation. Record an anthology of episodes based on your students' own research.

Questions or comments? info@aspb.org