



PLANT IDENTIFICATION GUIDEBOOK

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

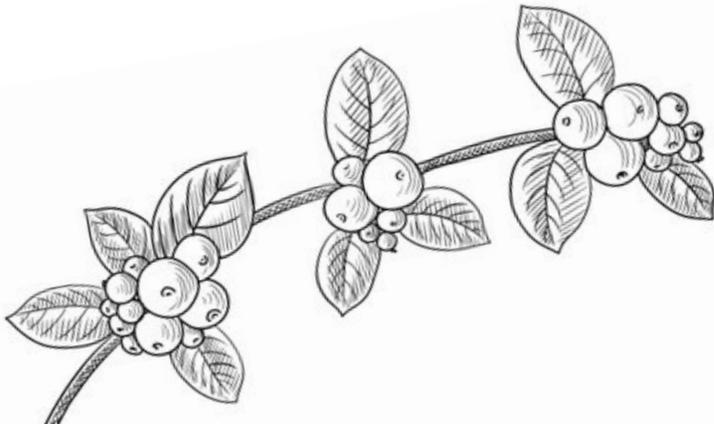


Visit Your Local Refuges
www.fws.gov/Refuge/Ridgefield

Your Name: _____

Instructions

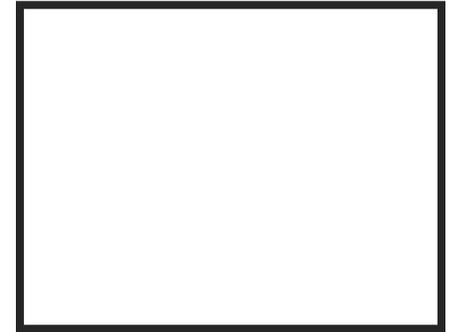
1. This book is a guidebook to help you engage with plants at the refuge through finding and observing plants we have here, and then trying to create your own!
2. To identify the plant, use the pictures provided. When you find it, draw a picture of it, or one of its leaves. Then, write down your observations and answer the questions underneath that plant.
3. After you observe some of our real plants on the refuge, try making up your own!
4. These activities can be completed in any order you wish. This book is meant to be a guide for you in the refuge, not a quiz of environmental knowledge.



Name of New Species of Plant: _____

What caused it to evolve that way? _____

Other features: _____



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Other features: _____

IMAGINE: New Species of Plants

New life is created when it adapts to its environment.

Can you imagine a new species of plant that might appear on the refuge?

Make a rough sketch, give it a name, and why it evolved to be that way!

Things to Think About:

- What conditions does it live in that caused it to evolve the way it is?
 - Does it thrive in lots of sunlight? Or does it like the shade?
 - Does it live in the water? Next to the water? Or only on land?
- How does it get sunlight and why did it evolve to get sunlight that way?
 - Does it have branches like fingers reaching upward?
 - Does it grow straight up?
 - Does it slither along the ground going under other plants?
- What are some unique features?
 - Does the plant grow an interesting new berry? Does it taste good? Is it poisonous?
 - How do the leaves grow? What color are they? What shape are they?

PLANTS TO IDENTIFY AT THE REFUGE

Find these plants and then complete a journal entry for each one. Each entry asks you to describe the leaves, how the plant grows out the ground, sketch of a leaf, and answer two questions related to that plant!

BLACK COTTONWOOD



SNOWBERRY



PLANTS TO IDENTIFY AT THE REFUGE

OREGON WHITE OAK

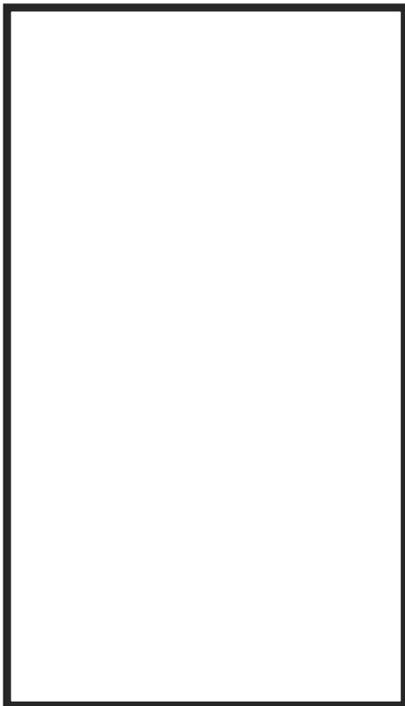


HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY



Oregon White Oak

FIND: Himalayan Blackberry



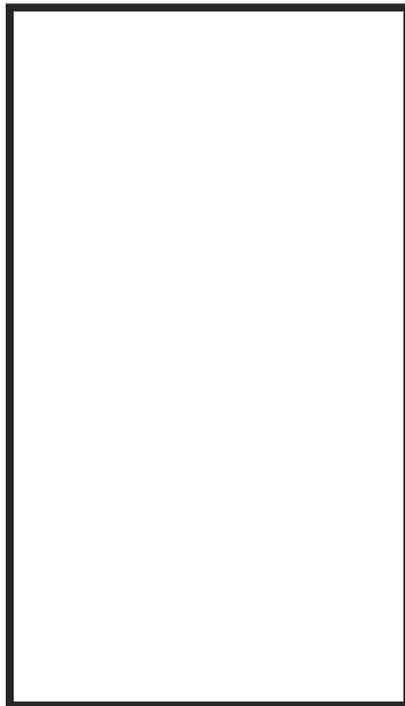
**Describe its leaves.
(ex. round, smooth, etc.)**

**Describe how it grows
out of the ground.
(ex. thick trunk, thin stalk)**

In what way does this plant grow differently than others around it?

This plant is not native to this area. Why would that enable it to grow more than other plants?

FIND: Oregon White Oak



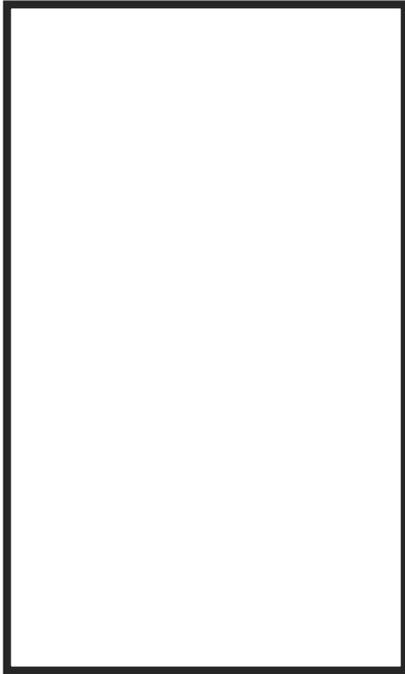
**Describe its leaves.
(ex. round, smooth, etc.)**

**Describe how it grows
out of the ground.
(ex. thick trunk, thin stalk)**

Describe the way the oak tree's branches grow.

This tree's bark is resistant to fire! Why might natural fires be a good thing for its habitat?

FIND: Snowberry



**Describe its leaves.
(ex. round, smooth, etc.)**

**Describe how it grows
out of the ground.
(ex. thick trunk, thin stalk)**

Why would this plant WANT birds to eat the berries it grows?

Snowberries are toxic for humans, but not birds. Why do you think would that be?

FIND: Black Cottonwood



**Describe its leaves.
(ex. round, smooth, etc.)**

**Describe how it grows
out of the ground.
(ex. thick trunk, thin stalk)**

Give this tree a sniff! Describe its smell.

With their aggressive root system, these trees can consume hundreds of gallons of water every day! Why might that be good for a wetlands habitat?
