

## Acrostic Poem: Guess My Singapore Plant

*An activity of "Saving plants from around the world".*

Read the article "Saving plants from around the world" (pages 22-23, *What's Up* October 2024). From a young age, Carlos Magdalena was fascinated with plants and had an extensive knowledge of them. In Singapore, we have a wide variety of plants which we can learn more about.

1a) Watch these two videos to find out more about local plants:

### **10 wildflowers that Singaporeans should know**

➤ [https://youtu.be/3IPa6\\_fk6Ss?si=SVqGk4-6TOXmCwFm](https://youtu.be/3IPa6_fk6Ss?si=SVqGk4-6TOXmCwFm)

(Gardens by the Bay, 15 June 2020)

### **From garden to table: She harvests and cooks vegetables grown in her backyard**

➤ <https://youtu.be/zLHpCZZD0vQ?si=stkFIJu1A8O6LUxr>

(CNA Lifestyle, 11 August 2022)

1b) Which plant caught your attention? Why?

2a) Pick a local plant. Find out more about it. Jot down your points here ↓.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What are its unique features?</i></li> <li>• <i>How does it look?</i></li> <li>• <i>Where does it grow?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does it have any special features?</i></li> <li>• <i>How does the plant make you feel?</i></li></ul>	<p><i>Sketch the plant here.</i></p>
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2b) An Acrostic Poem is a type of poem where the first letter of each line spells out a word or message. For this activity, the word will be the name of the plant you are describing. Let each line give a clue about the plant, so that the poem can be a fun riddle for others to solve. For example, here's an acrostic about the mimosa:

**M**y leaves are small, and delicate, and shy  
**I** can close them at the gentlest touch, though I'm tough like thorns  
**M**y home spreads across lush sunny fields  
**O**r cool, shaded corners through concrete pavement cracks  
**S**mall, pink flowers like a cheerleader's fluffy pom-poms  
**A**re my encouragement to you, whenever you pause and look

Write the name of your chosen plant down the left-hand side of the table. Each letter will be the start of a new line in your poem.

<p><b>Can you guess my plant?</b></p>
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2c) Think of clues for each letter. For each letter, think of a clue about your plant.

Through the clues, you can:

- describe its parts or appearance (e.g. leaves, roots, flowers, fruits, etc.)
- share its unique abilities (e.g. provides shade, blooms brightly, etc.)
- show what makes your plant unique (e.g. its scent, texture, shape, etc.)
- use descriptive language, similes, metaphors, and imagery to give clues.
- discuss how it makes people or animals feel/ its role in the environment.

2d) Illustrate the plant in your acrostic poem.

2e) Read aloud your poem to the class and get them to guess the plant you are describing. Reveal the answer along with the illustration of your plant at the end.  
Have fun!