

Challenge 3: Peas in a Pod(Cast)


YOUR CHALLENGE:


Oral history is an important tradition across the globe and throughout time. In our current era, we have the opportunity to contribute to our local oral history traditions and reach distant audiences through podcasts. For this Challenge, we ask you to contribute to your community's story by making a podcast that explores topics centered on the theme of services provided by plants in our urban communities. How have plants made our city better in the past? How do they make our city better now? What plant resources do people benefit from (outside of food)?

Using an interview-style approach, invite people you know or are in your community to discuss any personal connections they have to plants and the ecological services they provide. This could mean interviews with classmates, professionals, gardeners/farmers, or any one who has a story about the way plants have impacted society. Delve into the world of economic, environmental, and social services that plants provide. This is your opportunity to highlight what is important to you. You can take a social, scientific or historical lens to your podcast - you decide how your podcast looks and sounds!

SUBMISSIONS DUE:

December 12, 2025

 Digital Entry Form for each submission required

 5 - 8 minute podcast audio recording

Participants per submission: Student Group

POINT SYSTEM:

Maximum Points

100 points per submission

2 submissions per school

= **200 max points**



SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

A 5 – 8 minute podcast audio or video recording showcasing your interview conversation on ecological integration. At least two people should be interviewed. The podcast can be funny or serious, but it has to share their stories of how plants have impacted society and focus on economic, environmental, and social services provided by plants. Music from open sources may also be included optionally.

Podcast end credits should include student first name(s) and last initial(s), student grade level(s), teacher name, school name, and the phrase “the 2025-2026 Fairchild Challenge’s Middle School Challenge 2”.

Digital Entry Form.

- Audio or video link should be added to digital entry form
- Audio or video can be uploaded to Google Drive, YouTube, or school video sharing program and then link provided (*please ensure that link is open access*)

Two submissions max per school.

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Prior Knowledge:

To be successful, students should be familiar with these concepts:

- Best methods to effectively conduct research from reliable resources
- Technical artistic (visual and audio) skills to share perspectives
- Understanding of the role plants play in ecosystems

Standards/Learning Targets:

Subject	Strand	Standard
English Language Arts	Communication	ELA.10.C.5.1 - Create digital presentations to improve understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence.
Science	Basic Application of Skills & Concepts	SC.912.L.17.4 - Describe changes in ecosystems resulting from seasonal variations, climate change and succession.
	Strategic Thinking & Complex Reasoning	SC.912.L.17.12 - Discuss the political, social, and environmental consequences of sustainable use of land.
		SC.912.L.17.20 - Predict the impact of individuals on environmental systems and examine how human lifestyles affect sustainability.
Visual Arts	Skills, Techniques, and Processes	VA.912.S.1.3 - Interpret and reflect on cultural and historical events to create art.
Social Studies	Sociology	SS.912.S.7.1 - Identify characteristics of a social problem, as opposed to an individual problem.
	Geography	SS.912.G.3.2 - Use geographic terms and tools to explain how weather and climate influence the natural character of a place.

For more detailed information and resources, please visit the High School Challenge 3 webpage.

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Learning Goals/Objectives:

By the end of this Challenge, students will be able to:

Design material to promote understanding of natural areas

Identify ecological mechanisms performed by plants to support life in South Florida

Use research to create a thoughtful and dynamic podcast

Create visually appealing designs which highlight aesthetic, scientific, and audio elements

Differentiation:

ESOL students are allowed to produce their podcast in their first language.

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing may produce a short video in American Sign Language in lieu of audio.

We strive to be inclusive of all learners. Please contact us at challenge@fairchildgarden.org if you have questions about accommodations specific to your students' needs.

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