

# Jigsaw

*Advancing  
Student-Active Learning in  
Ecology Education*



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Photo from EcoEdDL: [Image for Plant communities growing on young and old lava flows in Hawaii](#), Lars Hedin, Princeton University

## **Special Feature: Celebrate Fascination of Plants Day**



Fascination of  
Plants Day  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Fascination of Plants Day May 18th, 2015** is an international event that showcases how plants are essential to the food, pharma, fuels, and fibers integral to our daily lives and a sustainable environment. There are so many ways to get involved in! Sign up for free events to create a fascination with plants.

## **What's new in EcoEdDL**

*Resources are free but an account is required. Login to EcoEdDL to download the resource.*

### **Move It or Lose It: Species Respond to a Warming World**

*Abby Grace Drake, Skidmore College*

Students work in teams to examine a primary literature paper, understand statistical output, and interpret graphs. The paper provides crucial evidence on species shifts in latitude and elevation in response to climate change.

## **Happening This Month**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **World Oceans Day**

June 8, 2015

For more info, click [here](#)

#### **NSF-UBE REIL-Biology**

August 8, 2015 at ESA meeting. Develop intro biology class modules.

[Apply for travel support.](#)

#### **Count the Ways: Engaging Students in Quantitative Biology Applications**

June 13-20, 2015

Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA

[Registration](#) Due April 27, 2015



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**Global Soil Week (April 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015):** Global Soil Week is an international multi-stakeholder event dedicated to the sustainable management of soils. The Global Soil Week aims at establishing a transdisciplinary process for exchanging knowledge and experiences on land and soil issues, and raising public awareness on the importance of soils globally to influence land and soil policies for sustainable development.

**Environmental Education Week (April 19 – 25, 2015):** Participating in EE Week is a terrific way to enhance learning and bring about positive change in your school and community. Find out 10 ways that you can get involved.

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## Reports



### Guide to Implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (2015)

This guidance was written as to ensure the adoption of the NGSS results in high-quality opportunities to learn science for all students by implementing the seven principles. The report is intended primarily for district and school leaders and teachers in charge of developing a plan and implementing the NGSS.

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## Resources



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### Performing a population viability analysis from data students collect on a local plant

*Noah Charney, Hampshire College and Sydne Record, Harvard University*

This exercise shows population viability analyses done by students who collected demographic data on perennial plants. During the two lab periods, students learn how to tag, record data, compile these data to build transition matrices, and learn how to run a simulation. This exercise is easily transferable across geographies and different plant species. A *TIEE* activity.

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### **A rare California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*) and potential prey, a wasp (*Vespula atropilosa*)**

*Aaron Ellison, Harvard Forest*

The California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*) is a rare carnivorous plant that grows in serpentine fens, a threatened plant community type.



### **What Are the Ecological Impacts of Plant Biotechnology?**

*Dara Zycherman, U.S. Green Building Council and Jason Taylor, (formerly ESA)*

The Figure Set presents several figures from research papers that provide data relevant to discussion on the use and impacts of biotechnology. Plant biotechnology involves the manipulation of living organisms, particularly their genetic material. The popularity of biotech plants rests on the idea that they will produce higher and more stable yields than non-biotech plants, but long-term evidence has not been gathered. This is a TIEE activity.

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**Want more Plants-based activities? Click [here](#)!**

**Have a resource to share? [Submit here](#)!**



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