



**African Nature Study
by Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons**

First African Nature Study: Cultivated Crops

Cultivated Crops

A crop is a plant or plant product that can be grown and harvested for profit or subsistence. By use, crops fall into six categories: food crops, feed crops, fiber crops, oil crops, ornamental crops, and industrial crops.

Food crops, such as fruit and vegetables, are harvested for human consumption. Grains, such as corn, wheat, and rice, are the world's most popular food crops. Food crops were the first crops to be harvested through agriculture. Agricultural development and the growth of civilizations led to the diversity of other types of crops.

YAM

Botanical name: Dioscorea Rotundata

African yam, botanically classified as **Dioscorea rotundata**, are the tubers of creeping, leafy vines that can reach over twelve meters in length and are members of the Dioscoreaceae family. Considered to be one of the **most important crops in Africa**, West African yams are grown in the "yam belt" which is a fertile region of land spanning across Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Benin. This belt produces over ninety percent of the yams sold globally and is one of the region's primary cash crops. West African yams are favored for their hunger sustainment, mild flavor, easy-to-grow nature, and long storage life, and are used in a wide variety of cooked applications. They can reach up to 150 pounds, but they can also be as small as your average spud. True yams have rough, dark skin, and their flesh can range from white to reddish color, but it's usually white. Types of yams are American yam, Japanese mountain yam, Filipino purple yam (Ube), Tropical yam, Air potatoes, Okinowan yam, Chinese Yam, White & yellow Guinea yams, Lesser yam.

Yam known as the "King of Crops" by the Igbos people in Nigeria, Africa, yams are highly revered for their large size, earthy flavor, and for their use as a staple ingredient in everyday cooking. African yams contain vitamins A, B6, and C, fiber, potassium, manganese, phosphorus, and copper.

Composer study

Ludwig van Beethoven

December 16, 1770 - March 26, 1827

Symphony No. 5: First Movement

https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer_profile.php?id=7

Something to watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wCNqbqaB3Q>

Botanical Illustration Artist

Lizzie Harper



YAM

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock:

pages 591- 611

African Nature Study by Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons

Poetry

The Vegetable Garden

I

FLOWERS are poetic, vegetables prose,-
So it is said; yet music may there be,
Though in a lower, less ecstatic key,
In common things, and every flower that grows
Hath elements of beauty to disclose
To eyes that have not lost the power to see;
And poetry is not of one degree,
Hut many more than learned scribes suppose.
Beauty of hue is here less often seen
Than in the flowers we grow to please the eye;
But when did Nature not delight in green?
Beauty of form and grace of symmetry
Are shared by plants the world considers mean,
And therein lies a wealth of poesy.

II

What leaves are here, so delicate and fine,
Like green lace ruffles, fashioned to adorn
A dress by Oberon or Titania worn?
Can these be carrots? And these plants that twine
Round their supports, with leaves of such design
As Bacchus in his chaplet might have borne,
And flowers as red as poppies in the corn?
Are these no more than beans whereon we dine?
And what fair flowers are these that we behold,
Such as a monarch well might deign to wear,
Imperial purple round an eye of gold,
And these of gold and white, but not less fair?
Whence came such beauty? Let the truth be told:
These are the blossoms that potatoes bear.

Materials:

Journals
Pencils
Watercolour
Eraser
Ruler
Brushes

Nature activities:

- Planting veggies: Easy to grow crops for kids are yams, carrots, courgettes, strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce & beans.
- Visit your nearest fruit and vegetable farms available for public. It will be great for your observation & journaling.

Nature Journaling:

Add the following in your journal:

Date

Time

Drawing

Your observations

Location

Weather

Words

Labelling

Quotes, Poetry

Measurements

Scientific name

Painting & drawing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-pgggB5DTE>

Purple yam <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyveUvA6Pt0>

Here's the video links of getting to know more about Nature journaling.

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/introduction-to-nature-journaling-video/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/getting-started-with-nature-journaling-video/>

References:

Handbook of Nature Study by A. Comstock, John Muir Laws,
Ehow and specialtyproduce.

*Please do share on the Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons on the FB group your African Nature journaling anytime. Thank you all.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/798820646986484>