

Nature Quote: Dr. Kathleen Pryer
 Duke College Professor of Biology
 Dr. Pryer led the research team that discovered a new genus of ferns in Costa Rica, and named it the Gaga group, after androgynous singer, Lady Gaga.

"Lady Gaga is an amazing champion for equality and compassion, and we wanted to give her a scientific name- sake that characterizes the struggle we have in biology for understanding diversity in humanity, in all of biology, and even in ferns."

For the rest of this quote and more information about Dr. Kathleen Pryer's work visit:
www.wftmaine.org/nature-activities

Activities

Fern Prints
Materials:
 - paper or fabric
 - paint (acrylic or poster works best)
 - foam brush, paint brush or small paint roller
 - disposable or reusable plate
 - newspaper
 - collected ferns and leaves

Instructions:
 1. Collect a few examples of ferns.
 2. Squirt paint on the plate- you can use one color or make a rainbow.
 3. Place your fern on the newspaper.
 4. Use the brush to apply a thin layer of paint to the fern.
 5. Peel the fern off and place it paint side down on your paper or fabric.
 6. Place another piece of newspaper on top to make a fern and paper sandwich.
 7. Using your hands apply firm pressure over the fern.
 8. Peel the layers away to reveal your botanical art!


Cinnamon Fern
Osmundastrum cinnamomeum

Traits: Fronds grow in vase-like cluster
Blade: Broadest at center
Leaflets: Have tiny cinnamon-colored woolly tufts near stalk (hairy under-arms). Leaflets quite pointy
Fertile Fronds (when present): Separate stalk that grows in center of vase & begins as aquamarine & turns cinnamon as it matures. Fronds eventually turn burnt orange & then brown
Crosier: Circular, densely covered with whitish-cinnamon hairs
Habitat: Wet areas, including bogs, swamps, and along stream banks




Sensitive Fern
Onoclea sensibilis

Traits: Fronds grow in large colonies
Blade: In shape of triangle, but all blades have some variation
Leaflet: Pairs opposite each other (each forming a mini-bowtie)
Fertile Fronds (when present): Bead-like clusters growing on separate stalks (begin as blue-green beads that turn brown and persist through winter) First to turn yellowish-brown in late summer (sensitive to cooler temps)
Crosier: Pale red
Habitat: Moist condition in sun and shade



The activities in this journal can be done on almost any quiet patch of earth in our area.







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POCKET
Nature Journal
 Ferns

Fern Vocabulary:

FronD: the whole blade & the stalk below
Blade: leafy part of the frond
Leaflet: main division of a leaf
Fertile Fronds: leaves that bear sori or the frond's reproductive spore cases
Crosier: fiddlehead or curled up frond of an emerging fern



Christmas Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides

Traits: Grows in free-form clusters, evergreen
Blade: Dark green & narrows at tip
Leaflet: A bump near the stalk toe of Christmas stocking or Santa sitting in his sleigh behind his reindeer). Stalk below the blade completely covered in scales
Fertile Fronds (when present): On upper portion of blade that is reduced in size
Crosier: Covered with silvery white scales
Habitat: Forest