

**Aims:**

To introduce the Plant Hunters – the explorers who travelled the world in the 19th century and brought many non-native plants back to Great Britain.

You will need:

- Print out of the board game (2 pages)
- Dice
- Counters
- Plant tokens or paper/pen to keep a tally

Instructions:

Align the two pages together and play the board game!

“Each player is a plant hunter heading off on an exploration of foreign lands in search of new species to send home. First you must make the dangerous crossing over the seas before exploring strange lands – a perilous journey through sometimes dangerous territories in your search for new plants. Earn plant points for each specimen collected - the player with the most plant points at the end of the game is the winner.”

Notes:

- The winner is the person who finishes with the most plant points: not the person to finish first.
- A plant point is collected by landing on a pink square. The description will refer to finding or collecting a plant/specimen etc.
- Only 1 point is earned unless the description specifically says otherwise. This may include doubling or even losing plant points.
- There are two grey squares (21 and 36) - all plant points are lost if you land on one these.
- Instructions /points on a square only apply if you land directly on the square.
E.g. if you land on square 39 and go back 3 spaces to 36 – the instruction on square 36 to miss a turn is not applicable.

When groups have played the game complete the follow up Plant Collecting worksheet - Activity 2.5.

Handy notes:

Some of the renowned Scottish plant hunters were:

David Douglas
Archibald Menzies
George Forest
Francis Masson
Robert Fortune

A lot more information can be found online about these explorers. Set pupils the task to see what they can find out.

Many Scottish plant hunters are listed on this website:

<https://www.explorersgarden.com/about-us/the-plant-hunters/>

Do more:

We know about many of the plant hunters' adventures and experiences as they wrote them down in journals during their travels.

- Imagine you are a famous plant hunter on an expedition and write a short story as if writing your journal: What adventures did you have? Did you scale a volcano, get lost in a desert or chased by wild animals? What plants did you find on your travels? Which countries did you travel to? How did you get there and how was the journey?