

SEE, TOUCH AND HEAR

Meet the park ranger at the Kīlauea Visitor Center

Pre School

9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

45 minutes



‘Ōhi‘a Lehua-Hāpu‘u Rainforest

Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park has special things to see and touch. It is a beautiful place to discover special plants and animals by using your senses.

Essential Question: Why is Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park such a special place to vis-

Photo Analysis

What do you see?

(Flowers, leaves)

What colors do you see?

(Red, green, white)

What is the name of this tree?

(‘Ōhi‘a lehua)



Setting the Stage

Ask students if they know why Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is a special place. Take a short walk between Kīlauea Visitor Center and the pā hula to discover two special plants.

Hands-On Experience: Using our Senses

Find an ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree to see and touch. What color are the leaves and flowers? Feel the trunk of the tree.



How does it feel (bumpy, smooth, cold, hard)? Look for a leaf from the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree. What shape is your leaf?

Find the hāpu‘u pulu or tree fern. The leaves grow long and sometimes hang above our heads. What color is the trunk? What does the pulu feel like? Ask students if they know why some folks call this the mother of ‘ōhi‘a. Tiny seeds from other plants like the ‘ōhi‘a lehua fall onto the hāpu‘u, then grow. What do you see growing on the hāpu‘u? Do the leaves of the



like ‘ōhi‘a lehua leaves? How are they alike? How are they different?



Sit down and close your eyes. What do you hear? Birds. What kind of bird is it? ‘Apapane Can you see them? What color are the birds? Look at the picture if you do not see them in the trees. Can you sing like an ‘apapane? Their wings make a fluttering sound. To eat the birds roll their tongues up like a straw. It helps them to get their food from the tiny cups at the bottom of the flower. See if you can roll your tongue like a straw.

Activity: Sing a song about the park’s plants and animals. Song:

“A Special Place to Be”

By: Katherine Dambley

C G7 C G7 C

Come to our park, our national park, a special place to see. Green hāpu‘u grow so tall and manu fly so free

F C G7 C

Welcome to our national park, a great fun place to be.

Closing: Review with students why Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is a special place to visit.