Puzzling plants

Focus question	How are corn and soybean plants similar and different?
Vocabulary	Monocot, dicot, taproot, brace roots, pollen, silk, flower, stem, ear, pod, nodules, tassel, kernels, soybeans, trifoliate, leaf, grass, legume

Background

Plants share many characteristics in common, but the plants that make up the majority of commodity crops, corn and soybeans, have some specific differences. Those differences determine the seed that each produces and what products they supply. In this activity, you will complete a plant from the puzzle pieces you collect, then discuss the similarities and differences.

Materials

- 11 puzzle pieces
- Venn diagram

Procedure

1. Collect 11 puzzle pieces.
2. Assemble the puzzle pieces to create a plant.
3. If there are missing pieces, trade out the pieces that do not fit for others from the pile of extras. (The puzzle does not have to have exactly 11 pieces.)
4. Once your puzzle is complete, begin to identify the characteristics that your plant has.
5. Compare to the plant from other groups.

Rubric for self-assessment

Skill	Yes	No	Unsure
I completed a model with my group.			
I can identify the structures and functions of parts within corn and soy plants using the vocabulary given.			
I can identify and describe the systems within a plant and how they interact.			