

The background of the entire page is a dense, close-up photograph of various green plants. On the left and center, there are several large, feathery fern fronds with many small leaflets. On the right side, there are clusters of smaller, more rounded leaves with serrated edges. The overall color palette is a range of greens, from light lime to deep forest green, with some darker shadows in the background.

# Fern Puzzle

## *Elementary Activity*

*Activity author: Natercia Valle, University of Florida*

*Fern image credit: Emily Sessa, New York Botanical Garden*

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# Directions

- Print the previous puzzle side above using a color printer and cut out the puzzle pieces. Print and make 1 copy of the puzzle for each team of 3 students.
- Explain the activity: working in teams of 3, students need to solve this puzzle.
- If a group finishes first, members can help other groups
- When puzzles are complete, ask about the image (e.g., What is this?)
- If students recognize the image as a plant, follow up with another question:
  - How do you know this is not an animal?
  - Is it living or non-living?
  - Can you tell me which of these plant features are true for the plant in the puzzle?
    - Green (True)
    - Needs sun (True – all plants need sun to make food)
    - Needs water (True – all plants, like all living things, need water)
    - Needs soil (True – ferns are a type of plant that is usually rooted in soil)
    - Has flowers (False – ferns do not have flowers)
    - Has seeds (False – this plant has another reproductive feature: spores)