

Colorful Porcelain Berry

Name: _____

Grade: _____



The Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is a climber. That means it has a weak stem, so it loves to climb up, up, up! It uses tiny helpers, called tendrils, to grab onto other trees and plants and grow really tall, sometimes as tall as 15 or 20 feet. It's like a plant climbing a ladder!

What does it look like? Its leaves can look a lot like grape leaves. They are often shaped like a heart. But the most exciting part is its fruit! The Porcelain Berry grows small, round fruits that are like tiny jewels. They come in many beautiful colors, like yellow, purple, and blue.

Inside each colorful berry are two to four tiny seeds. Guess who loves to eat these berries? Birds! When birds eat the berries, they help carry the seeds to new places. This is how the Porcelain Berry likes to travel and grow everywhere! It also has a big root system, and new plants can grow from cut roots.

The Porcelain Berry is an invasive species. This means it is a plant that is not native to a place, and it can cause harm to the local ecosystem. It grows very, very fast and can make big, thick groups of just itself, like a crowd. When it does this, it shades out and takes up all the space and sunlight that other native, good plants need to grow. This makes it hard for our local plants and animals to be healthy. Sometimes, grown-ups need to carefully remove these plants to help our native friends grow strong again.



1. What kind of plant is the Porcelain Berry?
 - (a) A big tree
 - (b) A plant that grows along the ground (also called a creeper)
 - (c) A climber

2. What do Porcelain Berry fruits look like?
 - (a) They are only green
 - (b) They are only red
 - (c) They are in many colors like yellow, purple, and blue

3. How do birds help the Porcelain Berry plant?
 - (a) They give it water
 - (b) They give it food
 - (c) They carry its seeds to new places

4. Why is Porcelain Berry called an "invasive" plant?
 - (a) Because it has sweet-smelling flowers
 - (b) Because it grows too fast and takes space from other plants
 - (c) Because its leaves look like grape leaves

6. Draw a Picture! Draw the Porcelain Berry plant with its climbing stems and its many colorful berries. What colors will you use?

