Plant Politics

This activity uses your knowledge about the problems facing plants (stresses, low resource levels) and links them to the existence of C₃, C₄ and CAM plants.

Background:
A new field has become available for planting crops. The current proposal is the CAM PLANT ACT that will allow the field to be planted up with CAM plants for a crop. As a member of parliament you want that field to be planted up with plants that photosynthesise just like you.

Challenge:
- Run an election campaign using posters. These elections will be very political, and you wish to expose your opponents’ weaknesses while promoting your own benefits mercilessly.
- The parliament is divided into photosynthetic factions, and each party has its own idea on how all other plants should photosynthesise.
- There is limited resources- you cannot stand other parties that waste resources or are inefficient in photosynthesis.

You will need:
- Colour pens
- Big paper sheet for ideas.
- Something to get information from (lecture notes, summaries, Knox)
- Quick thinking, a name for your political faction.

Possible points to attack:
- Think about the pros and cons of each type of fixing carbon. What happens if there is not much water? If too much acid builds up? If there is too much light around?? Are there too many steps? Are some enzymes inefficient?
- Explain your way of fixing carbon and think about how you could communicate this simply and persuasively.
- Be ready to answer questions from the opposition parties.