

Leafy Lessons: Fired up by Flowers and Pollination



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| Season: All, especially spring/summer | Duration: 1– 1.5 hours | |
| Overview: Get 'fired up' by flowers and pollination with a session of games, investigation and discovery! Using fun props, resources and real specimens from our nature reserve we find out; Why do plants need their flowers? What is the structure of a flower? How do flowers attract pollinating insects? Does colour matter? How can plants be identified? What is the role of plants in food-chains within a grassland habitat? How does our use of the land effect all our wildlife? | | |
| Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the parts of a flower and their functions. • To understand the life cycle of a plant. • To appreciate that plants use a variety of strategies to attract pollinators. • To understand how to use a key to identify different plants. | Key Vocabulary Reproduction Stigma Ovary Stamen Anther Filament Petal Sepal | (Adapt to suit Key Stage) : Fruit Seed Nut Food chain Embryo Food web Producer Herbivore Carnivore |
| National Curriculum Links: Key stage 2: Science: Year 3: Plants Year 4: All living things Year 5: All living things Year 6: Evolution and inheritance | | |
| Outline of Activities with approximate timings: Please note: We can tailor activities to suit the ability of your class and time available. Introduction (20 minutes) Using real flowers as examples we discuss; What is the structure and function of a flower? What adaptations do different flowers make to ensure insect or wind pollination? This discussion is reinforced with a child-sized 'build a flower' demonstration using some volunteers. Plant Strategy Carousel (30 minutes) Children work in three groups playing 'Where do I fit in?' game; discovering a bee's eye view of flowers using UV torches; and matching flowers to the insects that visit them in our Flower Friends activity. The Pollination Game (15 minutes) Children become either bees or flowers in this lively game which reinforces knowledge and understanding of flower parts and the importance of pollination in a plant's lifecycle. (continued on next page...) | | |
| www.carymoor.org.uk – tel: 01963 351350 – e-mail: education@carymoor.org.uk | | |



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Outline of Activities with approximate timings (continued) :

Choice of activity for longer sessions:

Unlocking the Key (20minutes)

Using our outdoor 'walk through' I.D key– trail children are able to build their skills in working through a simple key to identify some common plants.

Shrinking Habitats (30 minutes)

We make the links between the plants, their habitats and the implications of our actions, in a fun but informative plenary session.

Suggested follow-up activities:

- Create a wild flower area at school: Links to learning about what plants need to grow, pollination and pollinating insects. There is good information about creating a wildflower meadow at http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things_to_do/grow_wild/wildmeadow/ or <http://www.growingschools.org.uk/Resources/Downloads/Final%20Wildflower%20garden.pdf> . The book 'How to make a Wildlife Garden' by Chris Baines is also highly recommended.
- The Science and Plants for Schools website (www.saps.org.uk/primary) has a wide range of resources' exploring parts of a plant and their functions, pollination, and fertilisation.
- Carry out Plantlife's Bee Scene Survey in your school grounds or local green space and help the plight wild flowers and pollinating insects in the UK. The Wild About Plants website has loads of associated activity ideas and information too: <http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk/beescene/>