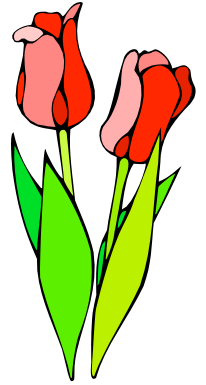


OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FLOWER ACTIVITY

GRADES 3-5



Dear Parents:

During the first week of May your child had another opportunity to work in the outdoor classroom. During library time, the students read about flowers, observed flowers under a microscope and with a jeweler's loop, had a chance to look at the flowers they planted in the fall, and sketched something they observed in the outdoor classroom. They used an interactive web site to learn about the parts of the flower and pollination (www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/gpe/index.html). Check out photos of the activities on our web site (<http://gloveroutdoorclassroom.home.comcast.net>).

This activity sheet provides some additional ideas for you and your child to do at home. Please feel free to send your comments, ideas or observations to gloveroutdoorclassroom@comcast.net.

ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME

- Observe the flowers growing in your neighborhood. Count the number of each color you see and graph the results. Which colors seem most popular? The least? Why?
- Discuss the difference between an annual and perennial plant. What kinds do you have growing in your yard or neighborhood? (For more info, see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>.)
- Do some experiments! (www.kidsgardening.com has great ideas to help kids think like scientists).
- Press flowers and use them to make bookmarks. (See www.grannysgardenschool.com/pressing_flowers.html.)
- Sit in a garden or other nature area and observe. What types of insects are drawn to what types of flowers? Observe a bee in action and encourage your child to draw what he/she sees. Observe a garden at different times of the day. Encourage your child to record his or her observations.

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. The pistil is the part of the flower that receives the pollen. | True or False |
| 2. Petals coax the pollinators into the flower to transfer pollen. | True or False |
| 3. When plants make their own food, this is called pollination. | True or False |
| 4. Every creature on earth depends to some degree on green plants. | True or False. |
| 5. The main way pollination occurs is through the wind. | True or False |
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MATH PROBLEMS

1. Student A and Student B planted pumpkin seeds. Student A planted his seed on June 11th. His seed germinates for 128 days. Student B planted her seed on June 5th. Her seed germinates in 95 days. When will Student A's pumpkin be ready to harvest? When will student B's be ready to harvest?
 2. Student A planted 6 rows of daises. In each row she planted 3 daisies. In the first 3 rows, each daisy had 34 petals. But in the last 3 rows, each daisy had 55 petals. How many total petals were there?
 3. Mrs. Henry planted 8 hosta Plants. After they grew, she divided each plant in half and replanted them. How many hosta Plants does she have now? The next season she divided each of her plants again. She replanted them. Now how many hostas does she have?
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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is a hybrid plant?
 2. What is Massachusetts' growing zone for plants? When is it safe to plant outdoors in the fall and in the spring?
 3. How does the Fibonacci theory in math apply to flowers?
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BOOKS TO INVESTIGATE

- *Audubon First Field Guide: Wildflowers*
- *Keeping a Nature Journal* by Clare Walker Leslie
- *Sunflower House* by Eve Bunting
- *Fun with Nature* by Mel Boring
- *Kids Garden!* by Avery Hart and Paul Mantell