WILDFLOWERS of the PACIFIC NORTHWEST for kids

Educator's Guide

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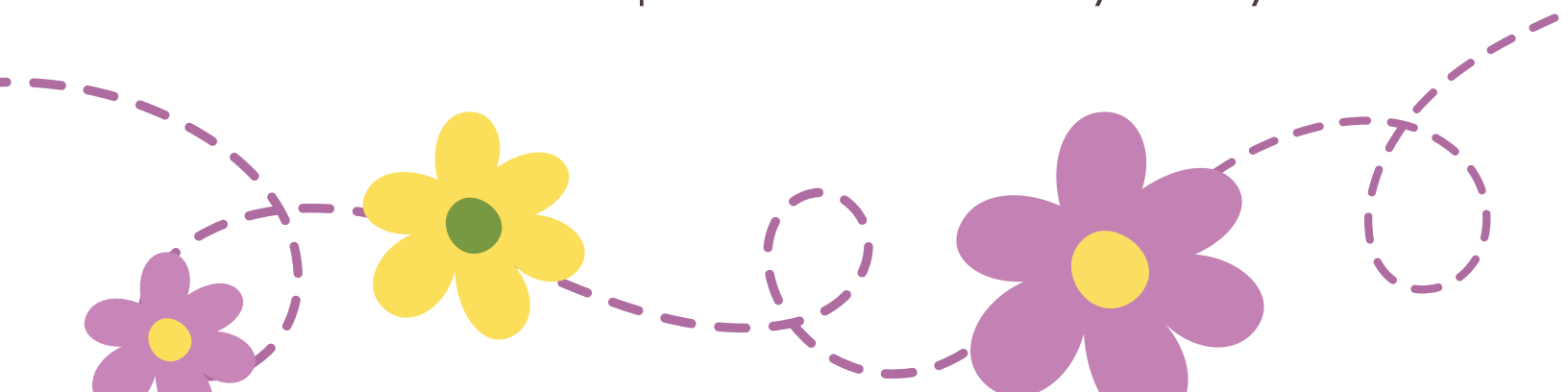
Open-Ended Questions for Discussion or Written Response:

1. What do all wildflowers have in common? What makes each one unique?
2. What is something you learned in the book that surprised you?
3. Describe the relationship between wildflowers and pollinators. Why is it important?
4. Choose a wildflower from the book. What adaptations help it survive its habitat?
5. If you were a wildflower, which one would you be and why?
6. What does being “wild” mean to you? How are wildflowers like or unlike other wild things?
7. Why do you think wildflowers matter to people? Animals? The planet?
8. What could happen if native wildflowers disappeared from the Pacific Northwest?
9. Should we ever pick wildflowers? Why or why not?



10. Consider one of these quotes from the book below.

What does this mean to you? Why was this something meaningful to the person who said it? Is it important to you? Why or why not?

"Only if we understand will we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall we all be saved."

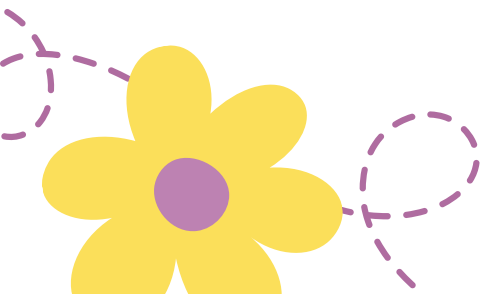
—Jane Goodall, page 170

"Today, the average American schoolchild can recognize more than a hundred corporate logos. They can give a name to about ten plants, and these include categories such as "Christmas Tree" and "Grass." We have lost an entire vocabulary, of speech, of experience, and of relationship."

—Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass, page 5

"Every time she learns the name of a plant, she feels as if she is meeting someone new. Giving a name to something is a way of knowing it."

—Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods, page 31



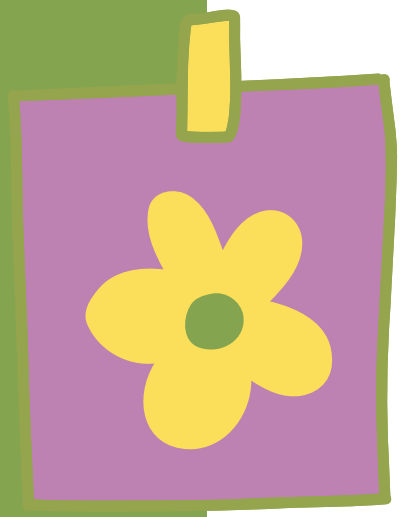
Visual Learning Extensions:

Invent-a-Wildflower:

Create a fictional wildflower and design a mini field guide page for it. What facts would you include?

Parts of a Flower Diagram:

Label and color a (2D or 3D) diagram, connecting terminology to species in the book.



Wildflower ID Poster Project:

Create an illustrated poster of native wildflowers using information from the book. *Challenge: can you find several wildflowers from the same family and make a poster?*

Auditory Learning Extensions

Wildflower Wisdom Podcast:
Students record short episodes sharing facts and information about the different wildflowers in the book.

Pollinator Songs & Rhythms:
Learn or compose a song or chant about the valuable plant-pollinator relationships or the wildflower names and facts.

Floral Folktales:
Listen to or read aloud regional legends or cultural stories involving the wildflowers in the book. *Ex: Bleeding heart, Scarlet paintbrush*

Linguistic Learning Extensions

Personify A Plant:

Write a story or diary entry from the point of view of a wildflower. Use facts you learned from the book to enrich your story.

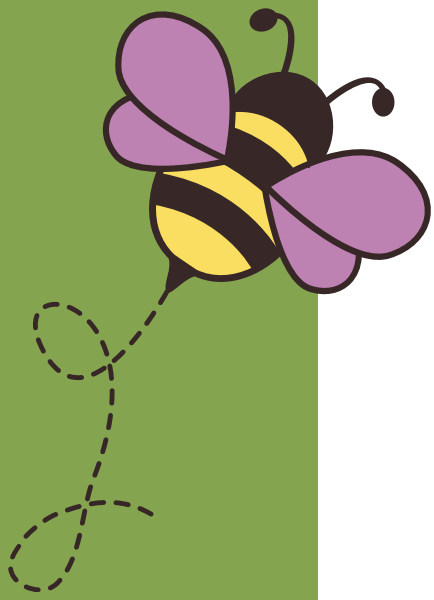
Wildflower and Pollinator Poetry:

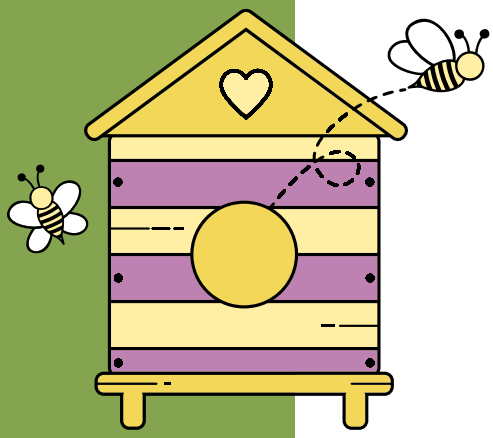
Use wildflower names to inspire vocabulary-rich accrostic poems. Can you write a haiku that captures and celebrates the spirit of a pollinator?

The Missing Page:

Do you feel like the book is missing something? Research and write an additional page for the book featuring a wildflower or a topic you think is interesting or would add to the book.

Kinesthetic Learning Extensions





Pollination Simulation:

Act out the pollination process and how different pollinators interact with wildflowers using props, puppets, or simple costumes.

Building a Bee Hotel:

Creating bee homes, also known as bee hotels or bee condos, is crucial because they provide vital nesting sites for solitary bees, which are essential pollinators. These structures help support declining bee populations and can enhance pollination in your garden.

Design a Pollinator Garden:

Many of us may not be able to build a pollinator garden at our homes, and that's okay. You can research and design one on paper or create a model of your dream pollinator garden.

Naturalistic Learning Extensions

Outdoor Scavenger Hunt:

Use a checklist of wildflower features (such as colors, leaf shapes, and habitats) to find matches during a nature walk or exploration.

Growth Tracking:

Plant wildflowers from seed and track growth in journals. Make it into an experiment by planting several seeds of the same type and growing them in different locations in your house or classroom (sunny window, cold bathroom, dark bedroom), monitoring the differences.

Compare Habitats:

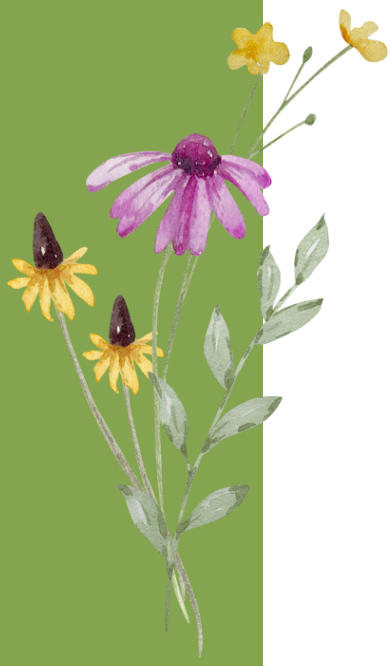
Use maps to explore where different wildflowers grow and why. Make a map of your state that shows which flowers you would expect to see blooming in various locations.

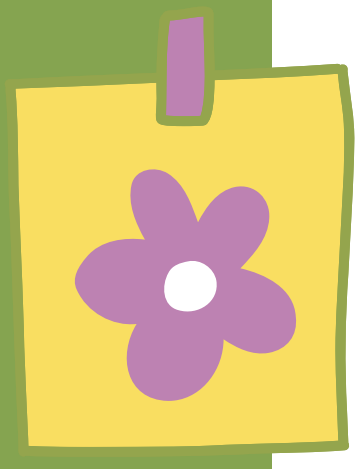
Logical Mathematical Learning Extensions

Wildflower Data Discovery: Chart plant characteristics (such as height, bloom season, habitat, sun requirements) and look for patterns throughout the season. Challenge: Continuously collect data year after year and analyze the results.

Adaptation Sort:
Categorize plants into categories, such as by their survival traits, climate zones, or preferred pollinators. How can this information be effectively presented to others?

"What if?" Scenarios:
Consider questions like "What if bees disappeared from the ecosystem?" and explore the cause and effect. How would the disappearance of bees impact your life? How would it affect our economy?





Interpersonal Learning Extensions

Wildflower Debate: Consider a fictional situation where an ecosystem was experiencing rapid loss of wildflowers. The community can only afford to save one wildflower. Groups take on roles to argue why their assigned flower is the most critical wildflower to save.

Pollinator Play: Collaboratively script and perform a short skit on the life of a bee or butterfly visiting local flowers. How could you involve humans in your play?

Habitat Posters:
Small groups are assigned different ecoregions of the Pacific Northwest and create educational posters featuring the wildflowers of that specific ecoregion. You could include pollinators or other fun facts too.

Intrapersonal Learning Extensions

Nature Reflection Journal: After a nature walk or wildflower observation, write or draw about your thoughts, curiosities, feelings, and connections made during that experience.

Wildflower Memory Challenge: Create a visual reflection using images, words, and natural textures that represent a favorite wildflower or pollinator.

“I Am” Poem:

Write an “I am” poem from a wildflower’s point of view. What details can you include that might serve as clues to your readers? When complete, give your poem to friends and see if they can guess your wildflower.

Additional Resources Available From Ashley

Who Am I: Each student is given a card with the name of a pollinator or wildflower on it. Students take turns acting out clues for others to use to try to guess what their card says. Challenge: Play this game without talking!

- This can also be a matching or guessing game. Ex: one player reads their card, "You might smell me before you see me and my pollinators delight in my strong smell. I am in fact very important to early pollinators because I am an early bloomer." The other player(s) would guess or match the clue to the correct wildflower (Desert Parsley).

Pollinator Bingo: Students are assigned a BINGO board with a pollinator on it. Their job is to explore the schoolyard, garden, park, and other natural areas, looking for matches on their BINGO board. Make it cooperative or competitive depending on your group.

- Examples below

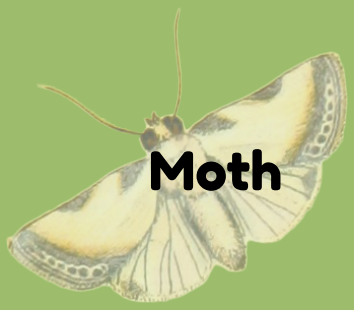
Butterfly Bingo!

An orange flower	A butterfly	A flower with a faint fresh, scent
A tubular-shaped flower	FREE	A purple flower
A flower with a wide landing pad	A red flower	A flower that blooms during the day

Bee Bingo!

A flower that blooms during the day	A blue flowers	A flower with a fresh, peasant smell
A bright white flower	FREE	A yellow flower
A bee	A tubular flower	An ultraviolet flower

Pollinator Memory Cards

Scarlet Gilia: I am a bright red and orange, spotted, tubular flower with lots of nectar	 Hummingbird
Camas: I open my purple-blue flowers in the afternoon and stay open until dusk.	 Moth
Oregon Sunshine: I shine bright yellow and bloom during the day.	 Bee
Skunk Cabbage: Without petals and often growing in swamps, I attract pollinators who love my skunky smell.	 Fly

Wildflower Traditional Uses Memory Cards

Milkweed / Rocky Mountain Iris	Ropes, String, Twine 
Various (Large-flowered Tritelia, Camas, Yellow Bells, Glacier-lily, Arrowleaf Balsamroot, Columbia Lily, Sagebrush Mariposa Lily)	Traditional Indigenous Food 
Explorer's Gentian (and many more!)	Ceremonial Facepaint 
Skunk Cabbage, Buckwheat	Medicine 
Trillium, White Bog Orchid, Hooker's Fairy-bell	Love Potion 
Cow-parsnip	Flutes