



STEAM Team Science Lesson

Lesson 4

Native Gardens

Native Garden Activity: "Planting for Pollinators and Wildlife"

Objective:

Introduce students to the importance of native plants for local ecosystems and wildlife, and guide them in creating a small native garden to support pollinators and other species.

Materials:

- Native plant seeds or small seedlings (e.g., milkweed, coneflower, black-eyed Susan)
 - Gardening tools (trowels, gloves, watering cans)
 - Markers and plant labels
 - A pre-prepared garden bed or pots for planting
 - Photos or printouts of native plants and the wildlife they support
 - Journals or worksheets for observation tracking
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Activity Steps:

1. Introduction to Native Plants (10 minutes):

- Discuss what native plants are and why they are important.
 - Provide examples of local plants and explain how they are adapted to the climate and soil.
 - Highlight how native plants support pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.
 - Show pictures of native plants and the animals that benefit from them (e.g., monarch butterflies and milkweed).
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2. Planning the Garden (15 minutes):

- **Designing the Garden:**
 - Let students decide where to place each type of plant. Explain companion planting (plants that grow well together).
 - Show how to space plants properly to allow for growth.
 - **Creating Labels:**
 - Have students create labels with plant names and drawings of the wildlife the plants attract.
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3. Planting the Garden (20 minutes):

- Demonstrate how to plant seeds or seedlings:
 - Digging the hole (appropriate depth for the plant).
 - Placing the seed/seedling and covering with soil.
 - Watering gently but thoroughly.
 - Let students work in small groups to plant their assigned area.
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4. Observing and Reflecting (10 minutes):

- Discuss how to care for the garden (watering, weeding, monitoring growth).
- Encourage students to observe their garden regularly:
 - What insects, birds, or other animals visit?
 - How are the plants growing?
- Provide a journal or worksheet for them to draw and record observations over time.