

“Which Native Wildflower are You?” lesson plan

Duration: 15 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to six different wildflower species found in the Ottawa area
- Students will identify and make connections between the characteristics of plants and animals, including humans, and explain how these characteristics meet basic needs
- Students will identify different local wildflower species by appearance and name
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of characteristics and uses of plants and of plants' responses to the natural environment

Background:

Wildflowers are diverse and come in many different sizes and appearances just like us! Building an appreciation for native biodiversity is essential to foster respect for the natural environment and understand how abiotic and biotic factors work together. By introducing students to native wildflowers and helping them relate to diverse species, students will develop a deeper understanding of and care for the nature that surrounds them. This activity will encourage students to learn about and build connections with various native wildflower species found in the Ottawa area.

Materials:

- One “Which Native Wildflower are You?” handout per student
- One writing utensil per student (pencil recommended)

Procedure:

1. As a class, brainstorm similar characteristics between plants and animals, including humans, and how these characteristics help living things meet their basic needs. Consider environmental influences on overall health and growth too. For example, wildflowers are diverse and come in many different sizes and appearances just like us! Both plants and humans need sunlight (Vitamin D) and water for healthy growth. Also like humans, some plants require a little extra care to help them flourish.
2. Give each student a “Which Native Wildflower are You?” handout. Have students answer each question in the flowchart to determine which native wildflower is most like them. Then have students write the name of their wildflower at the bottom of the handout.
3. Tally the class results. What does your class native wildflower garden look like? Discuss why diversity is important within your classroom and for wildflowers in your class garden. Encourage students to quiz their family and friends to keep expanding their native wildflower gardens!