



Flower Friends

Objective:

Students will learn that flowers come in a variety of colors. Students will match these different colors to the animals that are attracted to them.

Vocabulary:

flower pollinator

Materials needed:

Pictures of pollinators (butterflies, moths, birds, bees, beetles, flies, bats, ants)

Assortment of flowers in a variety of colors (dried, silk or live plants)

Poster board or white board

Procedure:

1. Animals have favorite colors just like your students do! Butterflies are attracted to red, orange, yellow, blue and pink flowers. Moths fly at night and visit light colored flowers. Hummingbirds are drawn to red, orange and magenta colored flowers. Bees typically visit yellow, blue and purple flowers. You can find more information on pollinator preferences online.
2. Ask the students to name their favorite colors and record their responses on the board. Review the different plant parts students observed during the field study. Ask which part of the plant is the most colorful. Accept different answers until the students mention flowers.
3. Ask the students to name different animals that visit flowers. Write their responses on the board. Ask the students to think about why animals visit flowers. Flowers put a lot of energy into producing scents and colorful petals to attract pollinators. Revisit the class list of favorite colors, and see which students share favorites with pollinators.
4. Pass out pictures of pollinators and have the students match their animal to the appropriate flower.

Extension Activity:

Having the students apply their new knowledge to the plants around the school is a great way to add a little playfulness to the garden. Laminate the pollinator pictures and tape them to a paint stick (which most hardware stores will donate). Challenge your students to find a plant their pollinator would visit and put the stick in the ground next to the plant.

