FLORIDA Wildflower FOUNDATION

Web Quest

Wildflower Profiles

Objective

Students will research and document specific native wildflowers.

Materials

- "Wildflower Profile" worksheet (at least one per student)

Standards

Grade 3: ELA.3.C.2.1, ELA.3.C.5.2, ELA.3.C.4.1, ELA.3.C.3.1, ELA.3.C.1.4, SC.3.N.1.1

Grade 4: ELA.4.C.2.1, ELA.4.C.5.2, ELA.4.C.4.1, ELA.4.C.3.1, ELA.4.C.1.4, SC.4.N.1.1

Directions

1. Assign students a wildflower to research. If time and resources permit, you may wish to assign multiple wildflowers or assign different wildflowers to each student. Profiles can also be assigned after each section using species relevant to that section.
2. Provide each student with a "Wildflower Profile" worksheet.
3. Have them research their wildflower(s) on the Internet to complete the worksheet. If computers are not available, consider reproducing pages from the websites to allow the students to find information to complete the profile sections.
4. Instruct students to use complete sentences when filling in the worksheet.
5. Completed profiles can be used as an additional assessment tool.

Below are some web resources that may help students complete this activity:

- Florida Wildflower Foundation plant profiles: FlaWildflowers.org/category/plant-profiles
- Florida Native Plant Society plant profile pages: www.FNPS.org/plants
- Institute for Regional Conservation, Natives for Your Neighborhood: RegionalConservation.org/beta/nfyn/
- Native Florida Wildflowers: HawthornHillWildflowers.blogspot.com
- Florida Museum of Natural History wildflower search: www.FloridaMuseum.ufl.edu/wildflowers/wildflower-search/
- iNaturalist: iNaturalist.com
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center plant search: www.Wildflower.org/plants/

Wildflower Profile

Wildflower scientific name:	Common name(s):
Size, color, general appearance:	Habitat (in Florida):
Wildlife interactions:	Interesting facts:
Wildflower sketch:	

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Outdoor Exploration

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Objective

Students will observe and identify various plant parts, adaptations, and ecological interactions in a natural setting, applying knowledge from multiple units in this guide.

Directions

Before going outside:

1. Review the scavenger hunt categories with students: flowers, leaves, plant defenses, signs of insects, fruits, and other life forms.
2. Discuss what students might look for in each category. Remind them that they should observe and document, not pick or disturb plants and wildlife.
3. Establish boundaries for the outdoor exploration area and review safety rules.
4. Explain that students should check off items as they find them and may draw or write notes about their discoveries in the margins.

During the scavenger hunt:

1. Take students to a natural area such as a schoolyard garden, nature trail, park or wildflower habitat. Areas with diverse plant life will offer the most opportunities for discovery.
2. Have students work individually or in pairs to search for items on their worksheet. Encourage them to look carefully at different plants, observe closely, and use all their senses (except taste).
3. Circulate among students to help identify findings, answer questions, and encourage curiosity.
4. Allow 20–30 minutes for exploration, depending on the size and diversity of the area.

Discussion

After returning to the classroom, gather as a group and discuss what students found. Ask:

- Which items were easiest to find? Which were hardest?
- What surprised you?
- How do the things you found help plants survive?
- What signs of plant-animal interactions did you observe?

Optional: Have students share their favorite discovery or most interesting observation.

Extension

Students can photograph their findings and create a class nature journal, or research one item they found to learn more about it.

Materials

- "Nature Scavenger Hunt" worksheet (one per student or pair)
- pencils or clipboards
- hand lenses (optional, one per student or pair)
- camera or smartphone (optional, for documenting findings)

Tips

School gardens with native plants, nature preserves, parks with natural areas, or unmowed sections of the schoolyard tend to have the most diversity.

Spring through fall offers the most variety, but scavenger hunts can be adapted for any season.

If your outdoor space is limited, focus on fewer categories or modify the options to match what's available.

Safety reminder: Teach students to observe without touching unfamiliar plants, especially those with thorns, spines, or milky sap.

Note: This activity works well as a culminating experience after completing multiple units, or as an engaging introduction to spark curiosity about wildflowers and plant adaptations.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Find examples of the following items. All items must be from nature. You may not use the same found item more than once. Each entry requires a different item.

FLOWERS

____ simple flower

____ composite flower

____ funnel- or tube-shaped flower

____ bell-shaped flower

____ white flower

____ pollen

LEAVES

____ simple leaf

____ compound leaf

____ triangular-shaped (deltoid)

____ lance-shaped (lanceolate)

____ arrow-shaped (saggitate)

____ toothed margins

PLANT DEFENSES

(try to find 2 of the following on different plants)

____ thorns or prickles

____ hairs

____ milky sap

____ strong aroma

SIGNS OF INSECTS

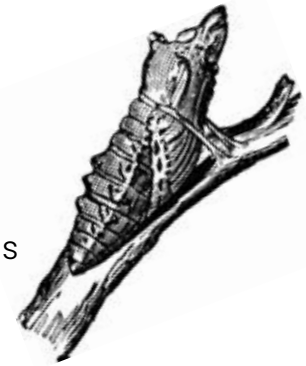
(try to find 2 of the following on different plants)

____ wrapped or chewed leaves

____ galls

____ cocoon or chrysalis

____ foam



FRUITS

____ berry

____ bean or pea pod (legume)

____ wildflower seed

____ other fruit or seed

OTHER LIFE FORMS

____ air plant (epiphyte)

____ moss

____ fungus

____ lichen

Additional resources

Florida Wildflower Foundation Resources

"Seedlings for Schools" grants are available to schoolteachers statewide from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Each grant provides $50 worth of plants with which to establish a campus wildflower garden. (FlaWildflowers.org/grants)

The **Florida Wildflower Foundation website** has extensive information on wildflower propagation, planting and other resources, and offers more than 450 plant profiles, as well as unique articles on wildflowers, pollinators and other related topics. (Flawildflowers.org)

Resources for purchasing native wildflowers and seeds

To find a nursery in your area that specializes in native plants, visit the **Florida Association of Native Nurseries** website. (PlantRealFlorida.org)

The **Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative** offers high quality, Florida native wildflower seeds. Florida Wildflower Foundation members receive a discount on seeds purchased through the cooperative. (www.FloridaWildflowers.com)

Other resources on native wildflowers

The **Florida Native Plant Society's plant list** offers profiles hundreds of Florida native plants. (www.FNPS.org/plants)

Although not specific to Florida, the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**'s website provides a wealth of information on wildflowers, including many that are native to Florida. (www.Wildflower.org/plants/)