

Learning objectives

- To encourage pupils to carry out a scientific survey.
- To discover the diversity of local flora.

20-30
mins

KS1
& 2

Teacher Preparation

Site visit, risk assessment and preparation of materials

Equipment & Resources

- Pencils, paper, survey sheets
- Large hula hoops
- Wildflower ID charts

Main activity

This is a great activity that can be carried out in your school grounds, Local Park, meadow or woodland. You can even carry out a study within your school grounds and a comparative study in your Local Park or nature reserve.

1. Introduce the topic to the pupils by asking them what they already know about plants and flowers and how many they can name. You may want to use a KWL grid.
2. Make sure they understand that different plants grow in different habitats e.g. bluebells like shade so grow in the woodland, daisies like to be in open meadow. Don't let them forget that trees are plants too.
3. Explain to the class that they are wildlife explorers and they're going to find out what kind of plants they have growing in their school grounds or local area.
4. Get the pupils to work in pairs or groups and give each group a hula hoop, pen, recording sheet and ID chart.
5. Explain to the class that to make the survey a fair test they have to throw their hula hoop and explore the area inside the hoop where it lands.
6. Using the ID charts, see if the pupils can identify what's growing in the hoop. Get them to record each species if they can and to count how many different plants they have. Use the recording sheet provided.
7. After the activity you can collate the information and get the pupils to make bar charts of the most common flowers they found.

Site visit and risk assessments are essential for this activity.
Ensure that the chosen area is free from hazards.