



Pollinators and Flowering Plants

Wildflower seed bombs

Age: 7-14

Topic: Conservation and Biology

Time: 1 hour (plus time to dry)



What should learners already know?

- Wildflowers are any flowering plants which grow spontaneously without human intervention.

What equipment will I need?

- Biodegradable cup for measuring.
- One cup of native wildflower seed mix.
- Two cups of topsoil or compost.
- Five cups of pottery clay.
- One to two cups of water.
- Large mixing bowl or tub.
- Empty egg boxes.



Did you know:

You can harvest your own seeds from wildflowers in your school grounds in early autumn.

Why is it important to encourage wildflowers in school grounds?

- This can be a useful exercise to build on biodiversity and conservation learning. Encourage children to reflect on why encouraging wildflower populations in their school is important.
- Wildflower meadows have been declining throughout Europe due to habitat fragmentation.
- A decline in wildflower species leads to a decline in pollinator species and therefore bird species.
- Encourage children to see how interconnected nature is. Conserving flowers also helps many other species!



Did you know:

In the UK, wildflower meadows have declined by 97% since 1930.

How will learners explore this?

1. This activity can be done in groups or as a class, and is a great introductory exercise for children to get involved with the practical aspects of conservation.
2. Using your hands, mix the soil, clay, and one cup of water together in the mixing bowl to form a dough-like consistency.
3. Further water may be required. Add another cup of water if necessary, and keep mixing until a dough-like consistency is formed.
4. Sprinkle in the seeds and mix them in until they are well distributed.
5. Take a palm or conker-sized scoop of mixture from the bowl and use your hand to roll it into a ball. Encourage children to get involved during this step if they have not already!
6. Place the rolled balls into an egg box (one per egg holder), and leave them somewhere safe to dry for one to two days.
7. Your seed balls are now ready to use!
8. The best time to sow seed bombs is either early autumn or early spring, as this is when heavy rains are most reliable. Seed balls can be stored in a cardboard box to be used at a later date.
9. To sow your seed bombs, gently throw them into a bare patch of ground which is in a sunny position. Think carefully about what parts of your school ground or local area could benefit from wildflower cover. Remember to return to this patch over the coming months to see how your wildflowers are getting on!



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