

TEACHER LED ACTIVITIES

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students use wildflower charts and guides provided, to observe and identify two wildflowers. Draw and give other information on each flower for comparisons.
2. Students take measurements with a Trundle wheel and calculate area and perimeter of a plot.
3. Choose two of four poem types to describe the flowers and native plant garden and then share one poem with the class.

MATERIALS:

- Trundle Wheels (12)
- Laminated Guides
- Wildflower Golden Guides
- Weeds Golden Guides
- Poster – Wildflowers of Texas
- Colored Pencils
- Calculators

PROCEDURE:

1. Share with students that they will need to complete three separate parts to this activity.
 - Wildflower Research Log
 - Trundle wheel math
 - Wildflower Poetry
2. Begin by showing wildflower poster to students. Also show students laminated pictures of wildflowers and identification guides.
3. Have students walk the trails in the native plant garden and choose two plants to identify. (Choose plants with flowers if possible.) *Note: Looking at a flower in the guide and then finding it in the garden is more difficult.* Students may sit at the benches to record their information.
4. Help students identify the wildflowers and determine the plants characteristics so students can record the information. (see plant terms below)
5. You may pass out colored pencils so students can draw the wildflower plants.
6. Now, show students a trundle wheel and demonstrating how it works.
7. Discuss the student answer sheet and explain how the students will need to measure two sides of the native plant garden.
8. Have students choose a partner and explain that each partner should make the same measurements. It is important to point out that taking more than one measurement will help to ensure accuracy.
9. After students have recorded measurements, calculators may be used to determine results.
10. Discuss the four types of poems with students.
 - Haiku - Haiku (also called nature or seasonal haiku) is an unrhymed Japanese verse consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables (5, 7, and 5) or 17 syllables in all. Haiku is usually written in the present tense and focuses on nature (seasons).
 - Tanka – A Japanese verse form in five lines, the first and third composed of five syllables and the rest of seven.
 - Cinquain – A five line stanza. Instead of syllables, this poem emphasizes grammar forms as the criteria for each line.

- Acrostic - Acrostic poetry is where the first letter of each line spells a word, usually using the same words as in the title. Single words or sentences can be used for each line.
11. Students should choose two of the four poem types to complete.
 12. Have students share one poem with the class or with their partner.
 13. Return all materials to the kit.

PLANTS TERMS:

Annual – A plant that lives and grows for only one year or season, during which the life cycle is complete. A new plant starts from a seed each year.

Perennial - A plant that lives for more than two years. Above ground parts may die but the root remains alive to begin growing again each spring or summer.

Biennial – A plant that normally requires two years to reach maturity, producing leaves in the first year, blooming and producing fruit in the second year, and then dying.

**NATIVE PLANT GARDEN/WILDFLOWER RESEARCH LOG
STUDENT ACTIVITY**

Student Name: _____

DIRECTIONS: Using the wildflower charts and identification guides provided, observe the wildflower area and identify two kinds of wildflowers or plants. Draw, label and give other information for each flower in the spaces below. Colored pencils are available for your drawings.

INFORMATION	FIRST WILDFLOWER SPECIES	SECOND WILDFLOWER SPECIES
Common Name		
Color(s)		
What is its growth cycle/habit - Annual, Perennial, or Biennial		
Flower type – large blossom or many small blooms		
Drawing of Wildflower		

TRUNDLE WHEEL MATH:

You will determine the **Perimeter** and **Area** of the garden. The perimeter is the total distance around the garden. The Area is a measure of the entire space inside the garden fence. Make sure that your teacher has demonstrated how use the trundle wheel correctly and safely. You are to work with a partner when measuring the garden.

Every click you hear on from the trundle wheel is equal to 1 meter in distance.

Remember good science says that you must measure something (2) times or more to make sure that your measurement is accurate. Each partner will measure once. You should only need to determine the length of one long side and one short side to fill in the chart below. Record your data in the table below.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN	MEASUREMENT
Perimeter = (length + width) x 2	Length _____ + Width _____ = Total _____ Total _____ x 2 = _____ meters
Area = (length x width)	Length _____ x Width _____ = _____ square meters

Student Name: _____

WILDFLOWER POETRY:

Choose at least two of the four types of poems to describe the native plant garden. You can use the flowers you identified or choose other interesting topics about the wild flower area. Choose one to share with the class.

1. HAIKU POETRY – Haiku Form

- Line 1: 5 Syllables
- Line 2: 7 Syllables
- Line 3: 5 Syllables

2. TANKA – Tanka Form

- Line 1: 5 Syllables
- Line 2: 7 Syllables
- Line 3: 5 Syllables
- Line 4: 7 Syllables
- Line 5: 7 Syllables

3. CINQUAIN – Cinquain Form

- Line 1: Title/Noun
- Line 2: Two Adjectives
- Line 3: Three Verbs (ing words)
- Line 4: Four Words how you feel
- Line 5: A synonym for the first line

4. ACROSTIC

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