



Maintaining a Healthy Garden

Lesson nine: What do butterflies and other flying insects have to do with producing food?

“A Butterfly’s Life” from GROWING IN THE GARDEN, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

The students review the butterfly’s life cycle, including how they help to pollinate plants. Students discover plant and animal interdependence. They study what to plant to attract butterflies.

Content objectives: Name and describe the four stages in the complete life cycle of butterflies;
Explain and give evidence of plant and animal interdependence;
Review and demonstrate the process and sequence of plant pollination.

Life skill objectives: Learning by modeling, Observing, Critical thinking, Communication, Citizenship if using Optional Activity of planting a butterfly garden for others to enjoy

Core and STEM concepts and skills:

Science: Life (characteristics of organisms, life cycles)

Math: Number and operation, Measurement, Data analysis, Connections, Representations

Language Arts: Factual understanding, Summarizing, Sequencing, Interpreting, Inferring, Vocabulary, Speaking

Healthy snack: Select items to sample that have flowers before the item grows, such as tree fruits, beans, peas or tomatoes

Additional and supporting resources: 1) Check with local beekeeper associations for possible classroom presentation on bees as pollinators. 2) “Buzzy, Buzzy Bee” from FOOD, LAND & PEOPLE: RESOURCES FOR LEARNING, Food, Land & People, available for \$4.00 digital download from <http://www.foodlandpeople.org/ordering/gardenwise/> (for Grade Level: 2-7; Students play a game in which they pretend to be honeybees and apple trees. In the process, they learn about plant pollination).





BEFORE THE LESSON

1. **Grade 4, Lesson 9:** This document contains all the curriculum items and resources you need for this lesson. All lesson downloads are located on the www.peoplesgarden.wsu.edu Educational Toolkit.
2. Check with your library for a copy of *Caterpillars and Butterflies (Beginners Nature, Level 1)* 2007 by Stephanie Turnbull (Author), Rosanne Guille (Illustrator), Uwe Mayer (Illustrator).
3. Prepare tree fruit, beans, peas or tomatoes for taste testing.

THE LESSON

A Butterflies Life is a lesson that should be taught over several days.

AFTER THE LESSON

1. Several optional activities are included at the end of the lesson. Consider inviting local beekeepers to give a presentation about pollinators.
2. Continue your garden journals or records. Each time you do a lesson or go out in the garden, there is an opportunity to add something new to the Garden Journal.

