



Help Your Wildlife Neighbors

Grade Level: Upper Elementary and Middle School

Concept: Students learn about the importance of pollinators and how they can help local pollinators by creating pollinator habitats in their schoolyard and teaching others about pollinators.

Subjects: Science, art, language arts

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Learn about the importance of local pollinators
- Understand the needs of local pollinators
- Take steps to help pollinators

Teacher's Notes:

- This lesson is best done after the "Meet Your Wildlife Neighbors" lesson.
- The Pollinator Partnership website is a wonderful resource for learning about pollinators and practical ways you and your students can help them.

Summary: Students will learn about the conservation efforts of Karl Maslowski and how they can take part in conservation efforts by protecting local pollinators.

Materials:

Film Clip: *Karl Maslowski's Conservation Efforts (1:34 min)*
<https://vimeo.com/687670026>

Area of land on the school grounds to plant a pollinator garden
 Native flowering plants (Ask for donations from local garden centers, parents, PTO, etc.)
 Gardening tools (Borrow from families)
 Poster paper
 Art supplies

Introduction: An important part of Karl Maslowski's work was to engage regular people in wildlife conservation. By sharing photos of wildlife, writing a local newspaper column, creating films and photographs, Maslowski helped people get to know and to care about local wildlife. He believed that anyone can help and that it is our responsibility to do so.

Procedure:

After students have completed the "Meet Your Wildlife Neighbors" lesson, show them the following clip from the film, *Karl Maslowski's Conservation Efforts (1:34 min)* <https://vimeo.com/687670026>.

1. Ask students what they think the word "conservation" means. Let them explain in their own words first, then share the following definition from merriam-webster.com, "a careful preservation and protection of something".
2. Tell students that some of their local wildlife neighbors that need careful preservation and protects are pollinators. Pollinators are animals that move pollen from one flower to another flower, which allows the plant to produce fruits and seeds. Pollinators do this unknowingly as they move from flower to flower to find food. The Pollinator Partnership website (see Resources) has great information about how pollination works,

why pollinators are important, why they need our help, and specific steps we can take to help them.

3. After learning about pollinators from the Pollinator Partnership website, come up with a conservation campaign and actions to help pollinators in your school yard. Recall how Karl Maslowski's conservation efforts involved lectures, sharing photographs, making films, and protecting lands. Students can do similar activities to conserve pollinators such as planting flowers, building a house for native bees, making posters to make other students aware of things they can do to help pollinators, or even making a public service film about how students can help pollinators.

Extensions:

Register Your Garden with the Cincinnati Zoo Plant for Pollinator's Challenge. You can register a garden of any size as long as it includes at least one nectar and one host plant.

<https://cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/plant-for-pollinators/>

Resources:

Websites:

About Pollinator Partnership YouTube Video: <https://www.pollinator.org/about>

Pollinators Need You. You Need Pollinators. <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators>

Protecting, Pollinators, People, and the Planet Brochure:

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/Pollinator-Partnership-Outreach-Brochure.pdf>

Eco-Regional Planting Guides (Enter your zip code to find out what plants are best for pollinators in your area.)

<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>

Crown Bees Native Bee Nesting Kits

<https://crownbees.com>

Crown Bees Community Garden Pollination Program

<https://crownbees.com/community-garden-pollination-program/>

Books:

Kalman, B. 2010. *What is Pollination?* New York: Crabtree Publishing Company.

Colorful photographs and diagrams explain how pollination works, why it is important, and how we can help pollinators.

Morgan, E. 2019. *Next Time You See a Bee*. Arlington, VA: NSTA Press.

Learn about the over 4000 species of native bees in North America and how you can help them.

Pryor, K. 2019. *Bea's Bees*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Kids.

Bea follows a bumblebee on her way home from school and is drawn into its busy world. Includes information about bumblebees and how kids can help them.

Slade, S.B. 2010. *What if There Were No Bees?* Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books. Countless animals and plants live in the grasslands, so what difference could the loss of one animal species make? Follow the chain reaction, and discover how important bees are.

Academic Standards Addressed in this Lesson

Depending on grade level taught, the following standards can be addressed by taking the focus of this lesson to one or more topics below:

Elementary Life Science: Grades 3-5

3.LS.3: Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.

4.LS.1: Changes in an organism's environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful.

5.LS.1 Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem.

Middle School Life Science

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

Common Core English Language Arts

Reading: Informational Text, Key Ideas and Details, Grades 3-5

Writing: Research to Build and Present Knowledge, Grades 3-5

Speaking and Listening: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas, Grades 3-5