

# Wildflowers and Butterflies

at Mill Waters heritage site



In this lesson pupils will learn about the importance of wildflowers to attract pollinators, which are vital for food production and the wider ecosystem.

Pupils will gain the fundamental knowledge of the life cycle of a flower and what it needs to survive, as well as an understanding of the important role they play in providing a habitat for a variety of species.

The life cycle of a butterfly, from pupa to its adult form, is contrasted with other animals that live at Mill Waters.

The lesson will engage pupils with the principles of wildlife conservation, including creating wildflower gardens at home or at school.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- HM\_L4TN** Teacher's Notes
- HM\_L4TS** Teacher's Slides
- HM\_L4HO1** Parts of a flower
- HM\_L4HO2** Pollination
- HM\_L4HO3** Decline of wildflower meadows
- HM\_L4HO4** Early beginnings
- HM\_L4HO5** Butterfly species
- HM\_L4HO6** Wildflower species

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Learning tasks include drawing and labelling the parts of a flowering plant.

A classroom discussion about pollination is supported by handouts and prompts for teachers.

During the warmer summer months, when wildflowers are in bloom, pupils may conduct a survey at Mill Waters.

There is a quiz to test pupils' understanding of different types of mothers and their babies – focussing on key species at Mill Waters.

Pupils' comprehension of the importance of conserving wildflowers can be stretched through a writing task which requires them to act as ranger at the Mill Waters site.

Teachers can harness pupils' commitment to protecting our pollinators by creating a wildflower garden at school.

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## LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM

### SCIENCE

#### Key Stage 1

##### Living things and their habitats

- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats.

##### Animals, including humans

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.
- Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air).
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

Non statutory: Pupils should be introduced to the relationship between structure and function: the idea that every part has a job to do. They should explore questions that focus on the role of the roots and stem in nutrition and support, leaves for nutrition and flowers for reproduction.

#### Key Stage 2

##### Plants

- Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers.
- Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant.
- Investigate the way in which water is transported within plants
- Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

##### Living things and their habitat

- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.