



Garden Animals Introduction

Connected Next Generation Science Standards

K-LS1-1 Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

K-ESS2-2 Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.

K-ESS3-1 Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

1-LS1-1 Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.*

2-LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some less well, and some cannot survive at all.

5-LS2-1 Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

Overview

Young gardeners are often attracted to the many animals that frequent the school garden. These lessons help students learn about and get comfortable with a variety of garden animals. This unit includes connections to structure and function learning standards, but emphasizes the importance of garden animals and treating them with care. Use one or all of these lessons to start exploring the animal side of the garden.

Suggested Lesson Sequence

- FBI Hunt
- A Worm's Senses
- Buzzy As A Bee
- Schoolyard Birds
- Schoolyard Ecosystems

Connected Garden Tasks

- Composting
- Protect the garden from pests - remove harmful insects from plants, add organic pest solutions, or construct row cover tunnels
- Preparing the garden soil - turning the soil, adding compost, or mulching
- Planting native flower and pollinator gardens



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MySci Connections

- Kindergarten - Unit 1, Lesson 5, 6, & 7
- First - Unit 5, Lesson 1 & 6
- Second - Unit 9, Lesson 4 & 5

Favorite Garden Animals Books

- *Hey, Little Ant* by Hannah and Phillip Hoose
- *Bee & Me* by Alison Jay
- *Are You a Bee?* by Judy Allen
- *A Butterfly is Patient* by Dianna Hutts Aston
- *Hurry & the Monarch* by Antoine O. Flatharta
- *Diary Of A Worm* by Doreen Cronin
- *Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth* by Mary McKenna
- *Ruby's Birds* by Mya Thompson
- *Birds, Nests, and Eggs* by Mel Boring

Garden Further Investigations

- Collect wildflower seeds and create seed balls for pollinators.
- Keep your garden messy over the winter - do not cut back native flowers, leave sunflower stalks, and keep fallen leaves on the ground. Visit the garden in the winter to see animals eating seeds and shriveled fruits.
- Construct a pollinator or bug hotel out of recycled material. Check out these designs from National Geographic or create your own - www.nationalgeographic.org/media/build-your-own-bee-hotel/

Indoor Further Investigations

- Set up a bird feeder next to your classroom window. Observe bird behavior throughout the winter. Create bird comic books or stories about the bird feeder adventure.
- Use a butterfly kit to hatch a caterpillar. Then observe the metamorphosis process as it transforms into a butterfly to be released into the garden.
- Build a worm compost bin for your classroom using kits or cardboard boxes. You need red wiggler worms which can be purchased at bait shops or online.



All Year - Outdoor | K - 5th | 30-45 minute lessons

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Seed St. Louis Resources

Connect with us on Facebook or Eventbrite to discover upcoming Educator Workshops. Subscribe to us on YouTube to discover season-specific gardening how-to's.



Looking for Field Trip opportunities or need to ask a question about our educational services? Contact education@seedstl.org or 314.588.9600 ext 106.

Community & Cultural Connections

- Native bees need our help! Bee populations are declining but gardeners can help bees survive by planting diverse native flowers, not using pesticides, and leaving a messy garden, especially in the winter. Get the community involved by creating bee informational signs for the school garden or to take home.
- Get more involved in local pollinator conservation efforts by checking out the St. Louis Zoo's Center for Native Pollinator Conservation (www.stlzoo.org/conservation/wildcare-institute). Their conservation work includes collaborating with the Ho-Chunk/Winnebago Tribe and Omaha Nation to restore their native food-ways through native pollinator conservation.
- Investigate how bee populations have higher diversity in North St. Louis compared to South St. Louis by reading about Dr. Gerardo Camilo's bee research at St. Louis University.
- Research where students' favorite birds migrate and learn about what going to school in that country or state might be like. Join eBird (www.ebird.org) to track bird sightings and connect with other birding classrooms.
- Do a pollinator habitat community audit. Walk around the neighborhood looking for pollinator habitats in the growing season. If parks or other public spaces do not have pollinator habitats, write letters to the local government or other groups about the importance of pollinators and habitat.