

Seed Bombs

Grade Level(s)

3rd grade

Estimated Time

30 minutes

Purpose

Students will make seed bombs as a fun and inexpensive way to sow native plants and flowers!

Materials

Links:

Virtual resources: www.lincoag.com -2020/21 virtual learning-April

Instructional video: [Pollinator Habitat - YouTube](#)

Book: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IWVioKcY37bC48GGM-C785HQDifidta5?usp=sharing>

Supplies:

Paper plate or bowl

Air dry clay

Water

Prairie seeds or pollinator flower mix

Potting soil

Ziploc bags (for students to take seed bombs home)

Recipe worksheet

Prairie photo examples

Vocabulary

Prairie: a large, open area of grassland

Native: Associated with the country or region

Pollinator: an insect, bird, or animal that help pollinate plants.

Background

Prairie vegetation is valuable for wildlife, soil conservation, and for aesthetic beauty. There is increasing interest in planting prairie on farms as part of a conservation reserve

program (CRP), for increasing the pollinator population, soil and water conservation as well as wildlife habitat and personal enjoyment.

Interest Approach – Engagement

Read or watch the virtual story: Honeybee Man

What were the bees collecting? Where were they collecting the pollen and nectar from? Why are flowers and bees important?

Procedures

1. Today we are going to do our part in helping butterflies and pollinators by spreading prairie life in our area.
2. Farmers use prairie land to not only help stop erosion and water run-off but to encourage pollinators to assist their crop production. Ask students what a pollinator is? Explain to the students that without pollinators we would not have many fruits and vegetables. Approx. 75% of plants rely on pollinators to help produce fruit and seeds.
3. Distribute recipe and seed bomb supplies- paper bowl or plate, clay, potting soil, and seeds. -4 parts clay to 1-part soil. Add water as needed.
4. Mix all ingredients together.
5. Roll the mixture into a ball and leave out to dry.
6. Send home in Ziploc bags. Instruct the students to toss the seed bombs somewhere they would like to grow prairie grasses and flowers (be sure to wait until spring).
7. Review with a class discussion of what was learned. Show pictures of prairie examples on the farm.

Watch a tutorial [Making DIY Seed Bombs - YouTube](#)

Organization Affiliation

Hannah Pagel and Stephanie Fowler with Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation

Agriculture Literacy Outcomes

T1.3-5.b Explain how the interaction of the sun, soil, water, and weather in plant and animal growth impacts agricultural production.

T2.3-5.c Explain how the availability of soil nutrients affects plant growth and development.

Iowa/ Common Core Standards

3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles, but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.