

Plants - KS1

Work in 3 groups.

Three activity areas.

Children do the observing and activities; adults record and collect their answers and information for follow up at school

Children will learn :

- to identify and name some local plants
- the parts of a plant - root, stem, leaf, flower, seed
- that the flowers need to be pollinated - by insects or wind
- that flowering plants produce seeds which grow into new plants
- trees are plants - trunk, branch, twig
- some plants only live one year others for a long time
- grasses are flowering plants
- most plants grow in soil
- to start to suggest reasons why different plants are found in different environments
- Why the wild flowers on the Millennium Green are important

Introduction

either at school or on arrival at IMG

divide into 3 groups for a circuit of activities:

| Group name/ Time | 9.30 – 10.05 | 10.10 – 10.45 | 10.50 – 11.25 |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Campions | Flowers | Seeds | Stems roots and leaves |
| Knapweeds | Stems roots and leaves | Flowers | Seeds |
| Cranesbills | Seeds | Stems roots and leaves | Flowers |

11.30 – 1140 Sum up what they have done all together
(Shorter time if done in afternoon)

Flowers

Will take place in the wildflower area around the upper seat.

Buds, petals, pollinated to produce seeds

Look at opened flowers with **hand lenses** (school bring these please), pollen on flowers and grasses. Names of flowers with **pictures** to find them. Likely flowers: knapweed, birdsfoot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, vetch, yellow rattle as well as buttercup, dandelion and daisy which many should already know. How many different yellow flowers? How many grasses and how many flowers in total with colours

Seeds

Will take place around the ponds, by stream and NE edge of copse.

Look at different sorts of seeds and how they are spread. Collect and spread some.

Campion 'pots' (spread some along moat bank), cranesbills (if dry may explode), burdocks with hooks, sticky weed/cleavers, hawthorn berries with seeds inside (eaten by birds), vetch pods (like tiny peas), blow dandelion 'clocks'.... Collect some **grass seed in pots** (for later use on IMG).

Stems, roots and leaves

Will take place in coarser grass and wet flush area, then in SE copse .

Look at grass roots, stems and leaves – explain why we should not usually pull up wild plants by roots unless they are not wanted there (discuss nettles, thistles and docks).

Dig up a dock or dandelion – long roots. Explore willow herb roots and water mint in wet flush.

Look at leaf shapes like clover, dock and grass and in copse – look at veins.

Look for tree roots in copse and trunks (like main stems), branches and twigs, leaves. Seedlings.