

Vocabulary

Chlorophyll: The green plant pigment that makes photosynthesis possible.

Flower: the part of the plant that makes the seeds.

Leaf: The part of a plant, usually thin, flat and green that produces food.

Germinate: when a seed begins to grow.

Nutrients: Minerals in the soil that help plants survive and grow.

Organism: A living thing such as a person, plant, animal, bacteria or fungi.

Pollination: a process in plants that is necessary for seeds to develop.

Root: the part of a plant that grows underground and provides the plant with water and nutrients.

Seed: A fertilized egg that contains an embryo and stored food and is capable of becoming a new plant.




Web Resources for Children

Kid's Gardening <http://www.kidsgardening.com/>


KinderGarden: An introduction to the many ways children can interact with plants and the outdoors. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarden/kinder.htm>


To help your students make the most of their trip to Meerkerk Gardens, here are some suggested activities:


Before Your Botany Adventure Tour:

 Ask your students what they know about plants. What kind of plants do they grow inside or outside...or what kinds do their families grow?


 Do they have a favorite plant?


 Do they have a fond plant memory? Like smelling a fragrant flower? Learning what food comes from plants?


 What would they like to know about plants?


 What they are expecting or hoping to see at Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens?

After your Botany Adventure Tour:


 Eat a seedy snack.

 Sprout wheat berries to add to a salad or sandwich.

 Choose an indoor or outdoor plant and keep a weekly record of its growth.

 Write a story about the life of a tree and act it out.

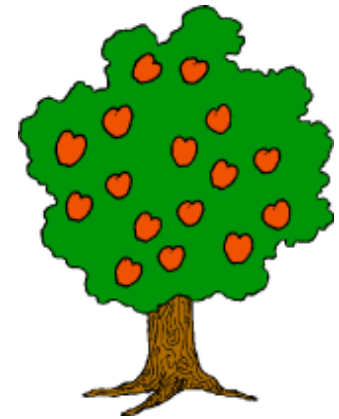
 Take a walk around the schoolyard and count the number of plants growing there.

 Find a tree in your schoolyard or home garden that needs help. Make recommendations that will help make the tree healthier..

Meerkerk Gardens

*Whidbey Island's peaceful
woodland garden presents:*

Plants Alive!



A Botany Adventure School Program Grades K-2

With support from:
Debbi and Paul Brainerd
Greenbank Garden Club
Kiwanis Club of South Whidbey
Lucky Seven Foundation
Meerkerk's 'Dreams of Spring'
South Whidbey Garden Club
South Whidbey Rotary
Tulalip Tribes
WalMart Community Fund
and our dedicated volunteers!

Meerkerk Gardens

encompass ten acres of display, educational, and research gardens enveloped by forty-three acres of forest preserve with nearly 5 miles of nature trails. Meerkerk Gardens is a not-for-profit organization, an outdoor classroom and living museum.

Our Botany Adventure Tours are inquiry-based, guided science programs conducted at Meerkerk Gardens and in the classroom. Botany Adventure currently introduces students in grades K-5 from all school backgrounds to plant growth and development through a series of a series of 1 1/2-2 hour seasonal tours in the “outdoor classroom.”

Teachers also have the option of a pre-tour or post-tour visit from Meerkerk staff to help students connect their field trip experience with their classroom activities and everyday lives.

Botany Adventure School Programs feature hands-on, child-centered activities and are aligned with Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements. All programs emphasize the fact that outdoor experiences contribute to the health and well-being of children. The common thread woven through all programs is the interdependence of life on earth.

Quotes from our Botany Adventure Students:

“I had such fun. I did not know how many kinds of flowers there are. There is a lot.”

“I wanted to tell you that I loved learning about flowers, plants, pollination and bugs with you, and all the things you showed and taught us.”

We invite your class to...

..join us in discovering the fascinating world of plants found in the Meerkerk Gardens this spring during peak bloom!

The *Plants Alive!* program is designed to help students understand:

1. Plants are living organisms and have basic needs to survive and grow, much like people.



2. Plants have a life cycle.



3. Plants provide people and animals with many of the things they need to survive and grow.



4. The mission and importance of Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens introducing plants, botanical science and horticultural arts to children.



We offer two types of educational experiences for your class:

Plants Alive! Botany Adventure Tours are offered on selected weekdays this spring from 10:00 – 11:30 or from 12:30 – 2:00. Classes may choose to start or end their tour with a picnic lunch.

Minimum Group size: 8 students

Maximum Group size: 30 students

Fee: \$3.00 per student

There is no fee charged to teachers & chaperones.

Plants Alive! Botany Adventure Tours + Classroom Visit: Our horticultural staff would love to visit your classroom before your tour to prepare students for what they will see in the Garden or after your tour to help them complete a project.

Fee for Tour + Classroom Visit: \$5.00 per student

Botany Adventure is funded solely through Grants and the small fee. Financial assistance is available as funds are procured. Please inquire as to availability.

Contact Meerkerk Gardens:

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