

Vocabulary

Anther: The part of the stamen, usually the tip which holds the pollen.

Embryo: An immature plant within a seed.

Filament: The stalk of the stamen.



Flower: The reproductive structure of a seed-bearing plant.

Fruit: Develops from the ovary and contains seeds.

Nectar: A sugary fluid in some flowers which is attractive to pollinators.

Ovary: The base of a pistil, which becomes a fruit.

Pistil: The female part of a flower consisting of the stigma, style and ovary.

Pollen: Tiny grains produced in the anthers that contain the male reproductive cells.

Pollination: Pollen transfer from an anther to a stigma.

Seed: A fertilized egg that contains an embryo and stored food.

Pollinator: an insect, animal or other vehicle that carries pollen from one flower to another.


Stamen: The male part of a flower consisting of the anther and filament.


Stigma: The part of the pistil that receives pollen.

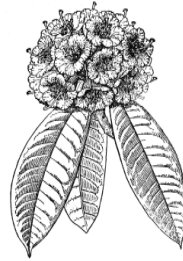
Style: the narrow part of the pistil which connects the ovary and stigma.

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

Before your Plants, Pollinators & You Tour:

 Make a chart to list favorite flowers and what you know about them.


 Ask your students what they are expecting or hoping to see while on tour at Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens.




After your Plants, Pollinators & You Tour:

 Design and create a “new” flower.

 Press and preserve some flowers.

 Design a pollinator friendly garden for your home or school.

 Make a presentation to a gardening organization about what you have learned.


 Create an informational poster or brochure about optimum habitat for pollinators, or pollinator friendly gardening.

Photo from Meerkerk on the front cover thanks to Dan Karvasek at DanKarvasek.com

Meerkerk Gardens
Whidbey Island's peaceful woodland garden
and outdoor classroom
presents:

Pollinators, Plants & You!



A Botany Adventure School Program Grades 3-5



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 1 to 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.







“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 during their peak blooming time of May.

The **Pollinators, Plants & You!** program is designed to help students understand:

1. The mission and importance of Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens introducing botanical science and horticultural arts to children. 
2. That many flowers depend on insect pollinators to make seed in order to reproduce. 
3. Insect pollinators depend on flowers for food from nectar and pollen. 
4. People are dependent on pollinators and flowers for most of the foods we eat. 
5. People can affect the ability of plants and pollinators to survive.



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

Plants, Pollinators & You!

We offer two types of educational experiences for your class:

Plants Pollinators & You Tours are offered on selected spring weekdays during the month of May, from 10:00 -12:00 or from 12:30 – 2:30. 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 Pollinators & You Tours PLUS 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

Financial assistance for students and transportation is available on a first come first serve basis as grant funding allows.

For more information please contact:

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