



My nature connection

DANDELION DANCE

GRADE: K-6
TAKES: 20 MIN

A single dandelion flower can produce between 100 and 250 seeds. No wonder so many sprout each spring!

INTRODUCTION

Dandelions are often considered weeds (or plants that are unwelcome in certain spaces). Some people dislike these yellow flowers, and others find them beautiful. While there are mixed feelings among human populations, they provide benefits to the planet and can be quite miraculous to follow.

Dandelions experience many different phases throughout their life, each an intentional part of carrying their species into the next growing season. In early spring, their jagged green leaves emerge from a long taproot. Shortly after, bright yellow flowers bloom from the stem, attracting insects to their pollen and nectar.

They provide a plentiful early-spring protein source for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and moths. Without a proper food source for our pollinators, many of the trees and plants we enjoy could not reproduce.

Once the pollinators have had their fill, the dandelions make a dramatic change to their physical appearance. As the flowers close up, the yellow petals are slowly pushed out to make room for a white globe of seeds. Each seed acts as a parachute that the wind can carry away. When the seeds land, which can sometimes be miles from the place they first grew, they are buried in the soil and eventually sprout into an entirely new flower. Here, the cycle continues.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Piece of paper
- Pencil or markers
- Scissors
- Glue



STUDENTS WILL:
Learn about
seeds, pollinators
and the life cycles
of dandelions.

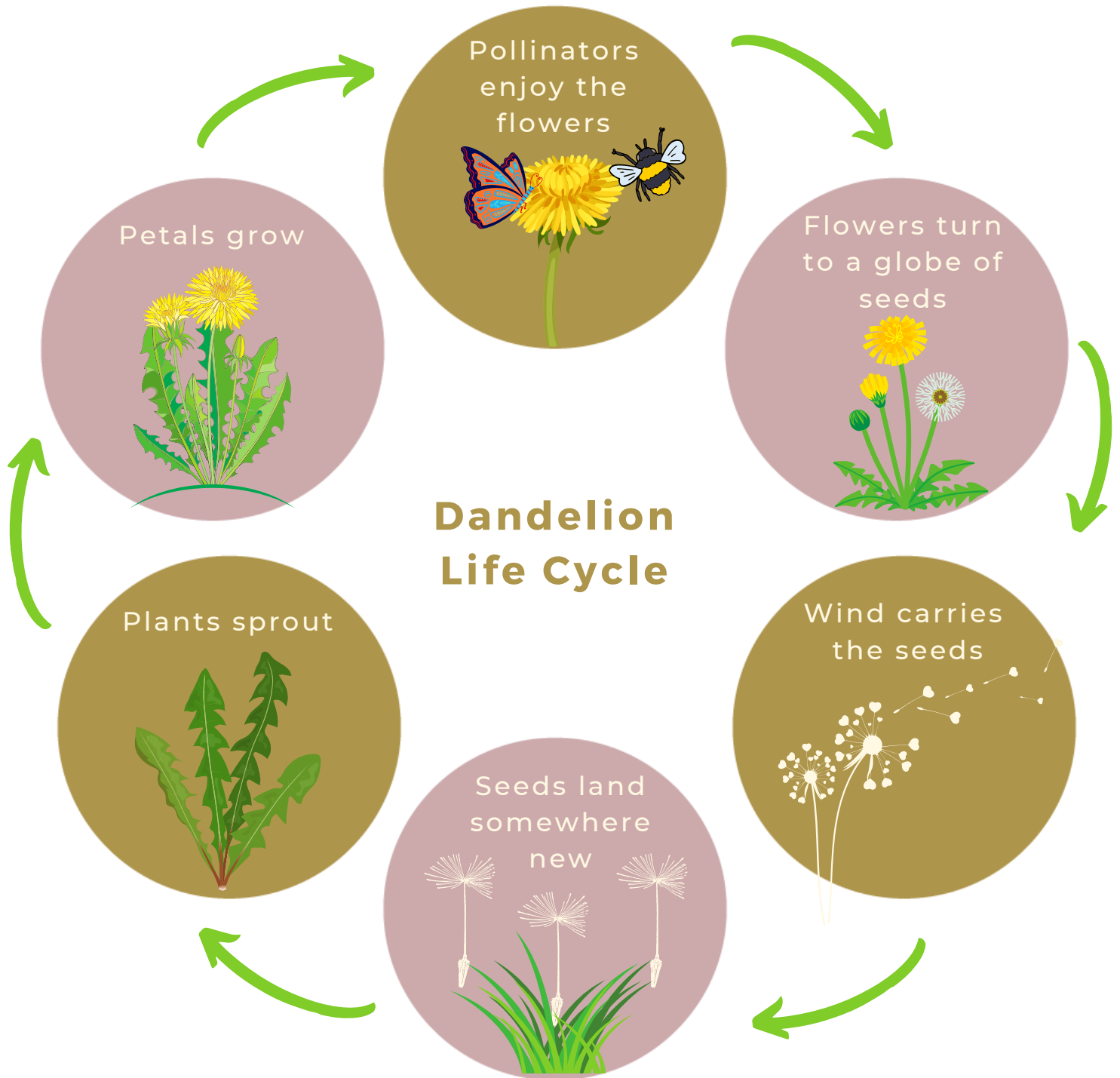


DANDELION DANCE

Cut out each of the circles and arrange them into the life cycle of dandelions. Then glue them down to a piece of paper and add arrows to show the direction of the cycle.



ACTIVITY KEY



CONNECTING WITH QUESTIONS

Why are dandelions an important flower to local ecosystems?

Explore an area at your school where dandelions are growing. What part of the cycle are they in? Are all of the dandelions experiencing the same phase of the cycle? How do you know?

Track the timeline of a dandelion. How long does it take for the plant to go through all of the different phases?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click on the image to the right to watch a video of dandelion seeds being carried away by the wind.



The Private Life of Plants: Dandelions

Individual dandelion seeds parachute over fields on the wind to better distribute their species. Sir David Attenborough narrates this clip from episode

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

take a short survey at: campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection

or here: Kids Survey - [click here](#) | Teachers/Parents Survey - [click here](#)

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Social Emotional Learning Competency:

Grade Level

Science Education Standard

Grade K

0.4.1.1.2 Identify the external parts of a variety of plants and animals including humans

Grade 1

1.1.1.1.1 When asked "How do You Know?" students support their answer with observations.

Grade 2

2.1.1.2.1 Raise questions about the natural world and seek answers by making careful observations, noting what happens when you interact with an object, and sharing the answers with others.

Grade 3

3.4.1.1.1 Compare how the different structures of plants and animals serve various functions of growth, survival and reproduction.

Grade 4

Grade 5

5.4.1.1.1 Describe how plant and animal structures and their functions provide an advantage for survival in a given natural system.

Grade 6

6.2.1.2.1 Identify evidence of physical changes, including changing phase or shape, and dissolving in other materials.

Grade 7

Grade 8

Grades 9-12