

## Bloom In Class- Press Wildflowers!

### Activities with Irish Wildflowers

#### Background Info and Fun Facts

- Wildflowers have been on earth for 130 million years and at one s wildflowers.
- Ireland has a small number (850) of flowering plants. All the species are found in grasslands, heaths and bogs around the country. Flowers are protected species in nature reserves and national parks and should be picked sparingly elsewhere as 120 species are threatened with extinction.
- A wildflower meadow or derelict area where flowers can grow are both great ways to attract butterflies, bees other insects and birds into the school garden and therefore add to the pollination of fruit trees. This will also build up the number of organism species in the garden.
- Some simple investigation tasks can bring the world of wildflowers into the lives of children.



#### Curriculum Links

Subject	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living things	Plant life
Visual Arts	Drawing	Drawing from observation, looking and responding
English	Oral language, writing	Communicating, understanding, exploring and using

#### Lesson Content (Junior and Senior)

1. Identify some of Ireland's wildflowers using the matching sets on the following pages in groups in class.
2. Go on a nature walk in the school grounds or beyond and collect samples of wildflowers. Just pick one of each species and never the root.
3. Get the pupils to place wildflowers on an A4 sheet and cover with four pieces of newspaper. Repeat this process on top of the previous sheets.
4. Change the newspaper after a week and leave again. Leave a heavy object on top to press.
5. After two weeks the job is done! Laminate the page or place the wildflowers on a clean page or copy and label with the name, date and where it was picked.



#### Resources

Wildflowers, newspaper, pen or pencil, sticky tape, copybook or sketch pad.

#### Teacher Hints and Tips

- You can bring your class outside to sketch some wildflowers in the book also. It will be your quietest lesson of the school year!

#### Web Links

- [www.schooleartheed.ie/paddys-school-garden/video-jun-press.html](http://www.schooleartheed.ie/paddys-school-garden/video-jun-press.html) to see Paddy Madden's video of this lesson and [www.schooleartheed.ie/paddys-school-garden/video-may-wildflowers.html](http://www.schooleartheed.ie/paddys-school-garden/video-may-wildflowers.html) for a video by Paddy on how to plant a wildflower meadow.
- If you plant a wildflower meadow in your school grounds, order native Irish wildflower seed from [www.wildflowers.ie](http://www.wildflowers.ie) and check out [www.schooleartheed.ie/pdf/intouch/WorkinginTandem\\_June2011.pdf](http://www.schooleartheed.ie/pdf/intouch/WorkinginTandem_June2011.pdf) for more information

**Summer - An Samhradh**

**June – Meitheamh**