

Education Language Arts

Grade 2: Module 4: Unit 3

Overview for Families

Notes to Teacher:

Making connections between home and school is vitally important in supporting students' learning. The following suggestions and materials represent some of the ways you can support these connections during this unit.

Suggestions:

- Copy the attached family letter and send it home with students after teaching Lesson 1 (this letter can be used as is or as a model). Consider having the letter translated for families whose first language is not English.
- Consider sending an additional letter to parents and co-workers requesting wildflower seeds for students' wildflower seed packets to be planted at the end of Module 4.
- Encourage students to share any at-home learning with the class. They can do this orally or by sharing writing, pictures, or artifacts. Example: Consider providing time for students to share their experience gardening. Students can document with a camera or draw pictures.
- Create a display board featuring pictures of gardens with pollinators. Provide a label for each part of the garden written in several different languages.
- Take pictures of students drafting their writing and artwork for the seed packet and post them in the room or hallway.
- Depending on the needs of your students and the expectations of your school community, consider assigning additional homework. Examples: open-ended activities that help students read, think, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic instead of those that simply test students on their content knowledge (see suggested activities in the family letter).
- If using EL Education's K–2 Reading Foundations Skills Block, consider sending home a copy of the student decodable reader used each week and encourage families to have students read these texts aloud to them.

Family Letter

Dear Family,

During Unit 3 of this module, your student will create a wildflower seed packet to help provide for butterflies. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion around the unit guiding questions, “How can people take action to help butterflies?” and “How can we reflect on our work and learning?” I am writing today to explain what your student will be learning, describe the activities that will support this learning, and suggest how to support this learning at home. I hope that you will plan to join us at the end of our deep study to celebrate all of your student’s learning!

What will your student be learning?

Students will begin to study the topic of providing for pollinators with a focus on learning about how wildflowers help butterflies. The learning will be focused on these ideas:

- Wildflowers help to provide habitat and food for butterflies
- If we do small things in our community, we can make a big difference
- Reflection helps us see our growth as learners

Students will also practice these reading foundation skills:

- Identify and write the sound for compound words
- Segment (break apart) the individual sounds of spoken, two-syllable words, and blend them back together
- Decode (read) and encode (write) regularly spelled, two-syllable words

How will your student be learning?

Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic of why we need tools. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Hearing a letter read aloud from a teacher who has helped butterflies by planting wildflowers
- Completing oral and written reflections about their learning
- Drafting colored pencil drawings of a butterfly
- Engaging in conversations with classmates about reflections on their work
- Typing written work using technology (word processing)
- Presenting work and reflections orally to classmates and visitors

Providing for Pollinators

What can you do to support your student's learning at home?

Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: How can people take action to help butterflies?
- Read books and sing songs about helping pollinators from home or at the library, including “The Pollinator Pokey.”
- Identify different ways gardens are helpful, and plant wildflower seeds to help butterflies.
- Encourage your student to read the weekly Decodable Student Reader you every night.
- Practice reading and spelling regularly spelled, two-syllable words with the possessive endings.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss your student's learning.

Sincerely,
