

Colorado Reader - Teacher's Guide

Ag in the Classroom - Helping the Next Generation Understand Their Connection to Agriculture

Colorado Native Plants

Colorado Academic Standard Focus

4th and 5th Grade Life Science:

- Analyze the relationship between structure and function in living systems at a variety of organizational levels, and recognize living systems' dependence on natural selection
- Explain and illustrate with examples how living systems interact with the biotic and abiotic environment
- Analyze how various organisms grow, develop, and differentiate during their lifetimes based on an interplay between genetics and their environment
- Explain how biological evolution accounts for the unity and diversity of living organisms

4th & 5th Grade Reading, Writing, and Communicating:

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (CCSS: RL.4.1)
- By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. (CCSS: RI.4.10)

National Agriculture Literacy Outcomes

Agriculture and the Environment Outcomes

- Identify the major ecosystems and agro-ecosystems in their community or region (e.g., hardwood forests, conifers, grasslands, deserts) with agroecosystems (e.g., grazing areas and crop growing regions)

Additional Resources

www.GrowingYourFuture.com - connects you to Colorado's Agriculture in the Classroom program. A variety of resources are available at this site. Click on the Curriculum Matrix page for access to an online, searchable, and standards-based curriculum database for K-12 teachers. The Matrix contextualizes national education standards in science, social studies, and nutrition education with relevant instructional resources linked to Common Core Standards.

<https://greeleygov.com/services/ws/home> - The City of Greeley's water conservation program is one of the largest and most successful in Colorado. Between 1990 and 2007, universal metering and other conservation programs dropped water demand by more than 20 percent in Greeley. The Conservation Plan estimates an additional eight percent reduction in water use over the next 20 years. Learn about their water conservation programs and events on their website.

www.WGCD.com - The mission of the West Greeley Conservation District is to provide leadership and guidance in the conservation and management of natural resources through research, education, financial assistance, and on the ground conservation practices. In short, they help landowners be good stewards of the land. The District boundary is entirely within Weld County and covers a total of 1,650,000 acres.

www.CCWCD.org - The mission of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District is to develop, promote, and implement water conservation, augmentation, and management strategies to protect water resources for the benefit of the citizens of the District and Subdistrict. CCWCD strongly believes that the key to protecting our water resources while sustaining agriculture production is through education. They offer educational opportunities to their citizens from kindergarten through senior.

www.CONPS.org - The Colorado Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the knowledge, appreciation and conservation of native plants and habitats of Colorado through education, stewardship and advocacy.

www.JeffCo.Extension.ColoState.edu - Learn more about native plants by joining the Native Plant Master Program.

Identify the Pollinators answer guide:

1. Hummingbird; 2. Moth; 3. Beetle; 4. Bat; 5. Fly; 6. Butterfly; 7. Bee

Student worksheet answer guide:

1. Species that naturally occur in a particular region.
2. Stamens
3. When native plants and pollinators adopt to each other over time.
4. Any of the 6 items listed on page 2
5. Unique places where animals and plants live.
6. Answers on page 5
7. Waterway
8. 946
9. Butterflies are active during the day, moths at night.
10. Gum plant or gumweed; Helianthus annuus

Comments, questions, suggestions and feedback about the Colorado Reader are welcome.

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Colorado Reader - Student Worksheet

Teachers: Please make copies of this worksheet for your students.

Answer the questions below, writing in complete sentences, by using the information found in the Colorado Reader: Colorado Native Plants

1. What are native plants?

2. What part of the plant produces pollen?

3. What does the word co-evolution mean?

4. Name one guideline to protect native plants.

5. What is the definition of a life zone?

6. What is the elevation of the Foothills life zone and name two plant species that grow in that zone?

7. What is a Riparian?

8. How many species of native bees are home to Colorado?

9. Butterflies and moths are active at different times of the day. What is the difference?

10. Name two native plants that would have been used by Native Americans.
