

HOME GARDEN LESSON 4

Guests in the Garden



SCIENCE: Observing, Identifying, Matching, Building, Researching

MATHEMATICS: Measuring

LANGUAGE ARTS: Reading, Comprehending, Writing

VISUAL ARTS: Designing, Drawing, Creating, Colouring



4.1 INTRODUCTION

Gardens receive a lot of visitors - but which are welcome guests, and which are unwanted pests? Some friendly visitors will pollinate, which makes plants healthier and helps them produce seeds; others will eat plants. Harmful visitors will eat plants or spread diseases. Being a good gardener requires knowing how to differentiate between the two!

This lesson will go over recognizing some of the most common garden visitors, as well as some activities that can help attract more pollinators to a garden.

4.2 IDENTIFY GARDEN VISITORS

Can you tell the difference between harmful and helpful garden visitors? Below are some of the most common visitors to find in the garden. Draw a line to match each to its description. *Answers at the bottom of the page.*



BUTTERFLY

1
I'm a great climber, and will climb up plants to eat their leaves.

2
I'm a pollinator. Some gardeners might mistake me for a flower.

3
I eat everything in a garden from roots to tips. I leave trails of slime.

4
I look small and delicate, but I protect your garden from pests.

5
I attach myself to leaves and stems to steal nutrients.

6
I am a helpful pollinator. Don't mistake me for a wasp!

7
I can give a nasty pinch. I can eat both plants and other pests.

8
I stand out due to my bright colour. I eat harmful pests.



EARWIG



LADYBUG



LACEWING



SNAIL



APHID



SLUG



BEE

TIPS AND TOOLS

Here are a few ways to prevent common garden pests!

BIRDS

Attract to the garden with birdhouses and bird baths. Birds eat many insects, including beetles, caterpillars, earwigs, snails, and slugs.

WATER / SOAP

Blast aphids, spider mites, whiteflies or other small pests with water from a hose, or mix water with a few drops of dish soap and spritz on plants to keep pests away.

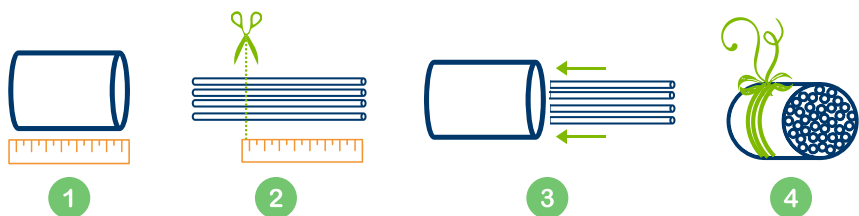
PIT TRAPS

In shallow container, mix sugar water with a bit of yeast for slugs and snails, or olive oil and soy sauce for earwigs. Place container on top of soil in the garden so pests will climb in and get stuck.



4.3 BUILD A BEE HOTEL

1. Make sure that one end of the recycled container is open; this will be the front. Measure the length of the container from the open end to the closed end.
2. Using scissors, cut straws to be the same length as your container. If using newspaper, scrap paper or old magazines instead of straws, roll the paper into small tubes about the width of a pencil. Use a piece of tape to secure each paper tube and cut to the correct length with scissors. Close one end of each tube with a piece of tape.
3. Insert the straws or paper tubes into the recycled container until all of the space is filled. Make sure that the open ends of the tubes are at the front of the container so that bees can crawl inside.
4. Tie a string, yarn or ribbon securely around the outside of the bee hotel. Use this string to hang the bee condo in a warm, sunny place that will be sheltered from bad weather. Bees that have no hive, such as Mason bees, will use these tubes as nests.



Optional Step: Use a shallow dish, recycled tray or bird bath to create a "pollinator pool" by filling with a small amount of water. Add a few smooth stones that sit above the surface of the water. Bees, butterflies and birds can use this pool as a water source and a place to rest, so place it near the bee hotel. Be sure to change the water every week to keep it fresh.

4.4 TRACK GARDEN VISITORS

1. Write the words "**Garden Visitors**" at the top of the next blank page in your Garden Journal. The following activity will be completed on this page.
2. Visit or observe the garden at different times of the day. Keep an eye out for visitors, such as birds, bugs or small critters.
3. Choose two or three visitors and draw them in your Garden Journal. Use a magnifying glass if necessary to see them close up.
4. Research the visitors you've drawn using the internet, the library or a local gardener to learn more about them. Find out whether the visitors are helpful or harmful and write that underneath each drawing, along with their name.

Optional Step: Write short notes beside the picture as a reminder...

If helpful, how are they good for the garden? How can the garden attract more of them?

If harmful, how are they bad for the garden? What is the best way to repel them?



- Eats aphids (yuck!)
- Loves herbs like dill, fennel and cilantro
- Loves flat white or yellow flowers



- Eats leaves
- Hates coffee grounds and eggshells (sprinkle over soil)
- Hates herbs like mint, parsley and lavender

4.3 MATERIALS:

- A recycled container
Some examples include a tin can or a 1L yogurt container. Make sure that the recycled container is thoroughly washed and dried.
- Newspaper, scrap paper, old magazines or used drinking straws
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Tape
- Scissors
- Pencil
- String, yarn or ribbon

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- Craft supplies for decorating the outside of the bee hotel
- Shallow dish, recycled tray or bird bath for a "pollinator pool"
- Smooth stones for resting spots

4.4 MATERIALS:

- Garden journal
- Pen or pencil

OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

- Magnifying glass to look at small garden visitors
- Coloured pencils or markers to colour in drawings

✓ TIPS AND TOOLS

Did you know that pollinators have favourite colours too? Growing plants in a pollinator's favourite colours will attract more of them to the garden.

Bees love purple, blue, violet, white and yellow.

Butterflies love white, pink, purple, red, yellow and orange.

