



### ***Revitalizing Neglected Landscapes with Organic Seed Blossom***

This lesson written by Rosanne Sloane

#### **Lesson Purpose:**

When Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon arrived in Florida on Palm Sunday in 1513, he named Florida, La Florida, "land of flowers", in honor of the Spain's Easter celebration. There was at that time an abundant wildflower as far as the eye could see.

As communities grew, native Floridians people and new settlers utilized native wildflowers for a variety of things, from medicine and food to aesthetics. They recognized wildflowers' places in nature's hierarchy and their importance in the plant and animal kingdoms.

As years passed with the destruction of natural places in Florida in order to develop modern dwellings such as homes, schools, and businesses, with it's the once beautiful landscape lost many of its wildflowers. Recognizing the loss of such beauty, many Floridians tried to save the wildflowers within in their own communities.

Florida's flowers include more than 4,100 kinds of spontaneous occurring plants. There are 2,800 Florida native plants. Florida's 2,800 native plant list includes trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses and flowering herbaceous species. In the spirit of Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Act created in 1965, we are going to help revitalize neglected landscapes with the use of clay and wildflower seeds.

We are going to create seed blossoms which we will be able to toss onto abandoned land. Each student will learn about our native wildflowers, choosing a flower they like and writing a brief description on it.

#### **The Standards for this lesson:**

**SC.4.L.17.4** Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

**SC.5.L.15.1** Describe how, when the environment changes, differences between individuals allow some plants and animals to survive and reproduce while others die or move to new locations.

#### **What will my students be able to do when they finish this lesson or unit?**

Student will be able to identify a native wild flowers, how to rejuvenate a neglected landscape through the use of seed blossoms, and recognize how art and clay can impact their environment.

**What assessment tools will I use?**

I will use the Wild Flower Crossword Puzzle, the Wild Flower Word Search, the Wild Flower Identifier Sheet, and seed blossoms to assess the students' understanding of wild flowers and the impact of clay can have on their environment.

**Who will assess student performance and how will this be done?**

I will assess student's performance based on written information gathered on a Wild Flower of their choice and the clay seed blossoms they create.

**How will I report the assessment results?**

I will grade each student under the following point system:

Written Report Fully answers all questions using complete sentences \_\_\_\_\_/2pts

Content of report is accurate and complete \_\_\_\_\_/4pts

Mechanics: uses correct punctuation, spelling, etc. \_\_\_\_\_/2pts

Correctly cites at least two resources \_\_\_\_\_/2pts

Seed Blossom is complete and stays held together \_\_\_\_\_/8pts

Oral Presentation Student discusses 3 facts about the wildflowers, why they are related to their area of living, and how they will help a neglected landscape \_\_\_\_\_/2pts

Student uses a clear voice and eye contact when speaking \_\_\_\_\_/2pts

TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/20pts

**What procedures will I follow?**

1. Introduce the lesson by selecting a wild flower and identifying why it is native for this area.
2. Discuss the factors that the students feel we have contributed to create a neglected landscape.
3. Have students research the Florida Wild Flowers.
4. Have students fill out a Wild Flower Identifier sheet.
5. Provide ingredients to make a seed blossom.
6. Demonstrate how to make a seed blossom.
7. Have students follow the seed blossom mixing instructions.
8. Provide tools for creating unique seed blossom shapes.
9. Cover with plastic to dry.
10. Handout dried project for presentation and take home to be tossed in a neglected landscape.

**What activities will my students complete?**

Each student will choose a Wildflower which they identify with from the list provided in the Wild Flower Recognition sheet. Each student will research about the Florida Wild Flowers they have chosen answering the questions provided in the Wild Flower Identifier sheet. Each student will be provided with ingredients to create seed blossoms.

**How will you summarize the lesson?**

I will recap a few of the Florida Wild Flowers, how a landscape can become neglected and how organic clay seed blossoms organically help beautify the area.

**What instructional materials will I use for this lesson?**

• A variety of media for research: books about Florida Wild Flowers, Internet websites (a list of links compiled onto a Word document or web page), science magazines, etc.

- Bucket
- Mixing stick/paddle
- Wild Flowers
- Garden compost

- Red Art Clay
- Latex Gloves (recommended)
- Chili Powder (optional)
- Newspaper

[Laguna Clay Company 490 Kane Court Oviedo, FL 32765 \\* 1-800-843-7057 / 407-365-5573](#)