

Curriculum Unit  
Title

Native Plants in Backyard Gardens

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**KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.**

**Study the local ecosystems and investigate how to influence its health by focusing on planting native plants with wildlife values that grow in the local Mid-Atlantic and Middle States Region.**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT**

**What plants would we grow to satisfy all the elements of a healthy food web? How can we keep healthy ecosystems that consist of native plants interacting with animal population in balance?**

**CONCEPT A**

Explore geography using GIS and imagery

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A**

What is GIS and how is it different from looking at a map?

**VOCABULARY A**

Basemap, direction, geographic layer, GIS, map layer, pan, zoom in, zoom out, pop-up

**CONCEPT B**

Investigate local region with GIS mapping tools

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B**

Where do you live? What is your zipcode? What region of the USA do you live in?

**VOCABULARY A**

Zipcode, region, topography, imagery, survey, data, collection, ecosystem

**CONCEPT C**

Study food webs and native plants for the region. Plan a virtual garden.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C**

What host trees are already present near your school? What caterpillars and moths do they host? What other plants can you grow to attract more caterpillars and moths?

**VOCABULARY A**

Diversity, native, non-native, invasive, butterfly species, moth species, flowers, tree, shrubs, grasses

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES**

Native Plant Finder: <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/>

ArcGIS Web Mapping Tool: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=88685ec7d1ae44a0b2b9e05395491090&extent=-133.921,11.2053,-55.7862,52.6063>

Google Earth: <https://www.google.com/earth/>