



Lesson Plan: Red Milkweed	
Lesson Objectives	Students will study the floral and fruit characteristics of Red Milkweed flower by illustrating the longitudinal section of the flower.
Project Objectives	
Grade Level	5
Background Information	<p>Red Milkweed, <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> is a plant that is very popular with pollinators. The Milkweed flowers visitors include monarch butterflies, native bees, flies, beetles and hummingbirds. Its native habitat is wetland edges, margins of lakes, ponds, shores of rivers, meadows, open lands, and riparian areas. The Milkweed is grown in moist to wet soils in full sun. They are perennial herbaceous plants that grow 3'-5' tall and form stately clumps with upright stems and long narrow leaves. The clusters of fragrant soft pink flowers, which emit a scent of vanilla or cinnamon, are followed by attractive seed pods for late season interest. The pods split open when ripe releasing silky-haired seeds, easily carried by the wind. Milkweeds are pollinated in a specific manner very different than other insect visiting flowers. Milkweed pollen is contained in pairs of waxy sacs called pollinia located in the stigmatic grooves. When an insect comes to visit a flower its legs and mouthparts slips into the grooves and the pollinia gets attached and transferred to other flowers. The milkweeds have medicinal uses often used to treat inflammation of the lungs, ringworm and bee stings. Milkweeds are listed as endangered due to agricultural intensification and use of herbicides because they are often treated as weeds. Milkweeds gets its name from its milky sap which is filled with latex and other chemicals which makes it toxic to animals.</p>
Materials/Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction paper Pencils Erasers Markers Colored Pencils

	https://www.wildflower.org/plants/TPWD-Identification-Milkweeds-Texas.pdf
Vocabulary	Toxic Inflammation Endangered Herbicides Fragrant Pollinator Wetlands
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The teacher should discuss the basic anatomy of a flower and then provide printed worksheets to label and color it in. 2. The teacher will then provide students with a longitudinal section of a Milkweed flower. The longitudinal section of the flower can be found in the website listed under resources. Students will label the parts of the flower and use colored pencils or markers to color it in.
Student Reflection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast the anatomy of a Milkweed flower with other flowers. Make a list of how they are similar and how they are different from each other. 2. How is pollination of Milkweed flowers different than other insect visiting flowers? 3. How do you feel about this piece of work? What parts of it did you like? Which parts of it did you dislike? 4. What resources did you use other than the ones listed for this piece of work? What methods did you use to search for resources?

Resources

<http://www.prairienursery.com/store/native-plants/red-milkweed-asclepias-incarnata#.V97ehPArKM8>

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Milkweeds-of-Central-US_plus-vendors_XercesSociety.pdf

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/TPWD-Identification-Milkweeds-Texas.pdf>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/plants/printouts/floweranatomy.shtml>

https://www.amnh.org/learn/biodiversity_counts/ident_help/Parts_Plants/parts_of_flower.htm

<http://www.proflowers.com/blog/flower-anatomy>

www.lowerraritanwatershed.org