

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:**

This activity teaches students about what makes a water-efficient lawn and garden including, mowing height, mulching, soil preparation, watering regimes, and habitat. In this activity, students are encouraged to become more thoughtful and spread the message of water efficiency outdoors.

---

**MATERIALS**

Microphone  
Flower vests  
Question cards  
Table with garden decorations  
Score keeper cards  
2 counting stands  
2 horns  
Flowers and fence

**Make sure you have all items before the students arrive!**

---

## BEGIN THE ACTIVITY

Wearing the 'flower vest', and using the fake microphone, you will "host" the game show with two teams of students.

*Human beings have been altering the natural landscape from the beginning of their existence.*

*Can anyone think of things that humans do to change their surroundings? What do we build? **Wait for answers.***

*Now, on a smaller scale, in your backyard, how do you see you or your parents change the landscape? **Wait for answers.***

*Changing our landscapes by creating gardens can be done in a way that is in harmony with the natural surroundings. You can create a garden that does not waste our precious natural resources, conserves energy, provides habitat and food for birds, butterflies and insects and improves the earth by increasing the amount of beneficial micro-organisms.*

*A lot of the landscaping that is done today uses pesticides, too much water and plants from other countries and habitats. Any one of these can disrupt and disturb the natural environment. By choosing the right plants, we can have a water-efficient, environmentally friendly garden that can improve the environment. Often you will hear people refer to landscaping as improving the natural environment, but this is only the case if we do not use harmful chemicals, plants from other countries or destructive gardening practices and if we do not waste our most precious natural resource – water!*

*In many parts of the world people have barely enough water available to drink and the water they do have can often be contaminated with bacteria that can make them sick. We are very lucky to live in a place where we are surrounded by water and we have the water treatment facilities to keep our water clean and safe. Just because we are surrounded by a lot of water doesn't mean we can waste it. A lot of energy is used to clean our water and make it safe. Reducing the amount of water we use, reduces the amount of energy used at the facilities that clean our water and that reduces air pollution!!*

*Sometimes people think that watering their lawn or garden too much is no big deal because we have so much water but we have to be very careful how we use that water and respect our greatest natural resource or one day we might not be so lucky!*



*Welcome to the wild and crazy Flower Power Game Show! One contestant from each team competes against each other for the coveted "Flower Power Championship".*

*Let's form two teams in front of the garden.*

*Here is how the game will work: Each of you will be asked a question. One point will be awarded for each correct answer. I will ask the first person in each line a question and the first one to toot the horn and answer the question correctly gets a point for their team. You will then go to the end of the line and the next two students are asked the next question, until all the questions have been answered.*

---

### WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

*Do not to waste water! It can be used for more important things!*

---

Updated April 27, 2009



**Some Definitions for reference:**

**SOIL PREPARATION:** the adding of compost, sand or other materials to make the soil better and more nutritious for plants.

**LANDSCAPING:** to beautify by changing or enhancing the natural scenery.

**WATER-EFFICIENT PLANT:** plants that can survive a long period with minimal water (rain).

**EVAPORATION:** the change in state from a liquid to a gas.

**MULCH:** a layer of leaves, grass clippings or wood chips spread over the roots of plants or trees to conserve moisture and prevent weeds.

**ANNUAL:** a plant that completes its life cycle in one year. These plants need to be planted every year. They will not come back.

**PERENNIAL:** a plant that takes longer than one year to complete its life cycle. These plants will come back every year.

**SHRUB:** a plant with several branching woody stems and no main trunk, smaller than most trees.

**NATIVE SPECIES:** a plant or animal that originated in a certain area; it was not imported or introduced.

**EXOTIC SPECIES:** a plant or animal brought in from another country therefore not native to a particular region; many can be invasive species.

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** primarily exotic species that out-compete native plants for resources and invade a landscape.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: FLOWER POWER

