



Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve inspires the appreciation and use of native plants by serving as a sanctuary and an educational resource for conservation and stewardship.

Located in New Hope, Pennsylvania, the Preserve has over 4.5 miles of walking trails wandering through 134 acres of forest, stream valley, pond and meadow.

"Experience what's natural, learn what's native."

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Connect with the Preserve online

www.bhwp.org |  @bowmanshillwildflowerpreserve

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Family Activity Guide: Meadows



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Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund

MEADOW MAGIC

Buzzzz, swishhh, hummm, snap: what was that sound? Woah! What's that smell? What was that flying past? Meadows are open areas where we can find all kinds of different plants and wildlife. One of the most important things about meadows is the diversity of life they can support! Read on and discover some fun ways that you can learn more about and explore meadows.

Take a High-Low Hike!

Up High! Go for a hike and try to focus your attention at or above your eye level. Do you see any flowers? Are there creatures moving from plant to plant? Is anything sweeping across the sky? Record your observations.

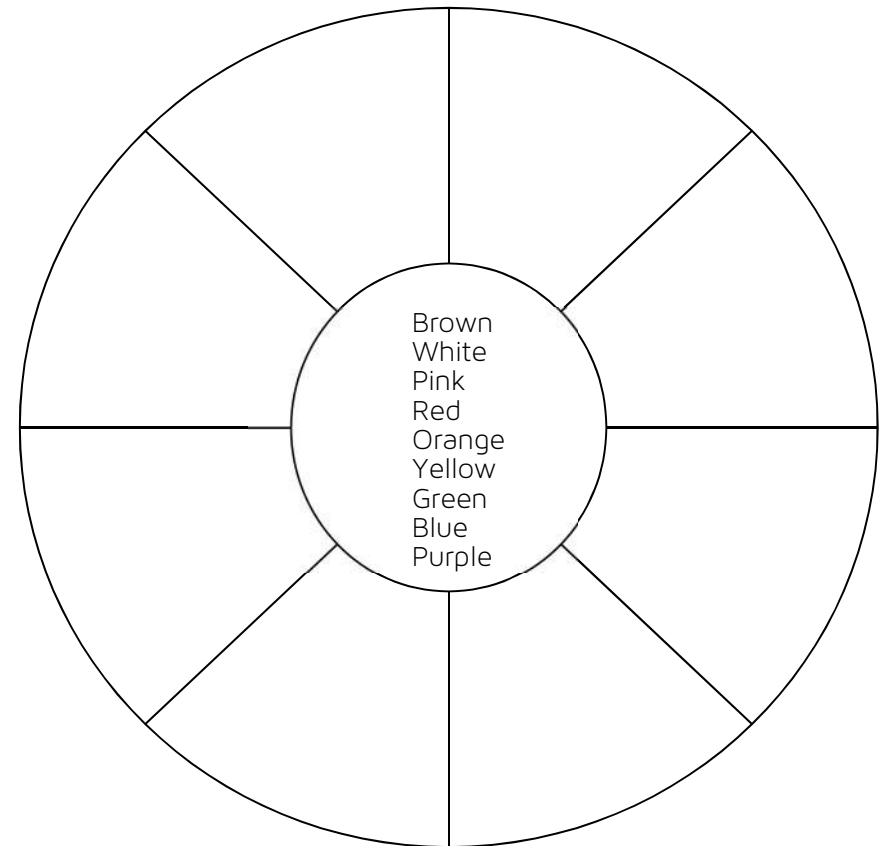
Down Low! Turn your attention to what's below eye level. Are there any interesting insects? Do you see smaller plants closer to the ground? Do you see berries or fallen leaves? Do you notice any similarities or differences?

Show and Tell!

Learning is more fun with friends! Visit the meadow with some friends or family, and have each person look for something they've never seen before. Take a picture or draw it in a notebook. Then, hold a show and tell and let each person show their discovery.

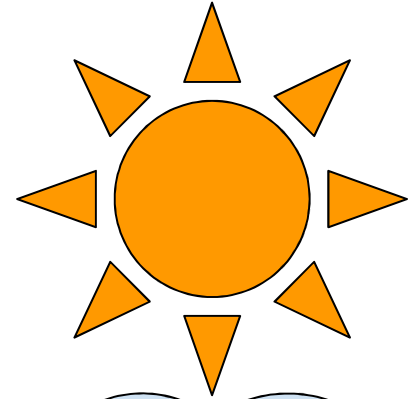
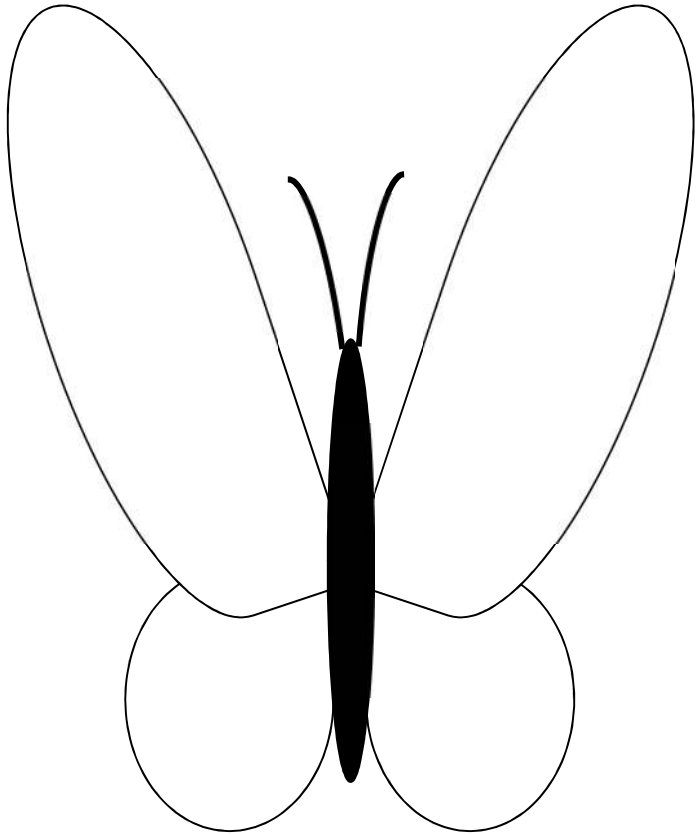
THE RAINBOW MEADOW

The meadow is a unique habitat. Have you ever seen so many colors scattered throughout? The diversity of life in the meadow allows for beautiful scenes that change with the seasons. Color in each segment of the color wheel with one of the colors listed below, and hunt for that color in the meadow! Look for green leaves, flowers of any color, seed pods, berries and fruits and anything else you might find. Try this activity at multiple times throughout the year and see what differences you discover.



FLYING FRIENDS

What's more beautiful than a butterfly in a meadow? Butterflies and moths are abundant in the meadow, and just like the flowers they frequent, most have beautiful patterns. These patterns are the same on both wings, which is called symmetry. Explore symmetry and give the butterfly below some beautiful wings. Help it impress all the other meadow species!



Sensory Hike!

Not much can beat a day in the meadow, and there is always something to engage all of your senses! Sit quietly, close your eyes and focus all of your attention on your other senses. How do you feel? What do you smell? What can you hear?

Most people tend to rely on their eyes to observe their surroundings. By blocking this sense, you can help your brain focus on everything else it can notice!

Take it One Step Further...

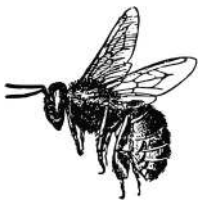
Give yourself "deer ears" by cupping your hands around your ears to make them larger. What do you notice about the sounds around you? Are there more sounds now? Are the sounds you heard before louder or quieter? Why might this be?

Think about the animals that live in the meadow. Do any of them have big ears like that? How do their ears help them survive?

MATCH THE POLLINATOR TO THE FLOWER

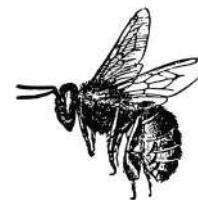
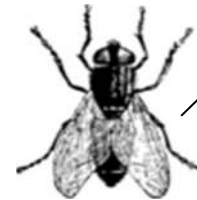
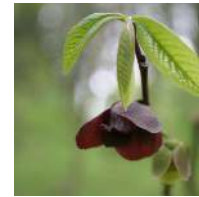
While pollinators search the meadow's blooms for tasty nectar, they pick up pollen and carry it to the other plants they visit. This movement of pollen is known as **pollination**. Pollination is what is needed for plants to reproduce! Many flowers have developed special partnerships with specific groups of insects. Some might offer a great big landing space for clumsy bees, some might try to mimic the color and smell of rotting meat. Even the shape that a flower has might make it more attractive to some pollinators over another.

Match the pollinator to the flower they will pollinate by drawing a line below!



MATCH THE POLLINATOR ANSWERS

The orange butterfly milkweed is a favorite of most butterflies. In fact, milkweeds are the only plants that monarch caterpillars will eat! The funnel shaped flowers of the foxglove beardtongue are just right for a hummingbird. The deep purple flowers on the paw paw tree attract flies, and the bright yellow color and large petals of black-eyed susan make an easy landing pad for bees.



WORD SEARCH: DISCOVER THE MEADOW

Our meadow is a great place to find wildflowers throughout the growing season. It is also a good place to discover some fun creatures that call the meadow their home.

The word search below holds some of these species, which are listed below. Can you find all nine?

V T M S Y M O N A R C H U I C
J C I I A G W F V J W C D N P
B U L S H S N D S I H Q R G S
M S K T Y O T F K P D C A U P
X J W O X N N E C D A H G C I
U B E T J K R E R P I V O P D
N H E U L V X E Y O S S N J E
K T D Z I M Y C D S Y Z F T R
D A H C T A E F Q A U B L G W
L O V S Z E M O Z U Z C Y O O
Q W L J F B P H Z K T S K W R
R F H G D J N X A N K E G L T
C O N E F L O W E R V D G N E
T D H P H U A S X X U G X M P
H G B W O Q N W K N N E U Q V

honeysuckle
milkweed
daisy

spiderwort
aster
dragonfly

monarch
coneflower
sedge

ACROSTIC POEM

A great way to share the magic of the meadow is by creating and sharing some artwork! Poems, like acrostics, can help us think about what we know, what we can observe, and how we feel about a particular thing. Fill in each line with one word that describes "Meadow Life" to you. Each word you choose should begin with the letter shown. For example, you might begin with "(M)arvelous."

M _____

E _____

A _____

D _____

O _____

W _____

L _____

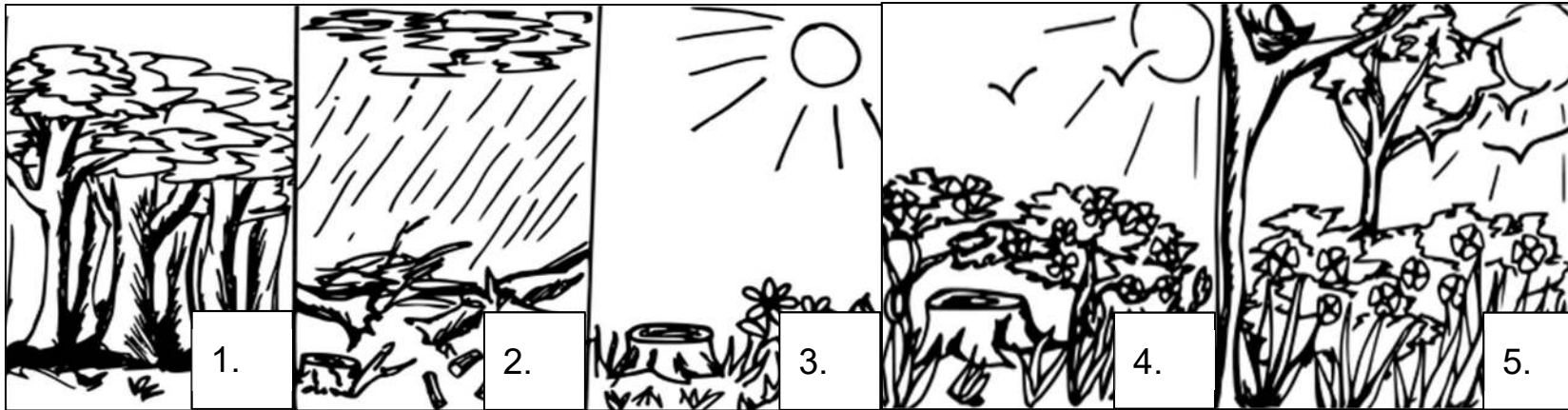
I _____

F _____

E _____

THE STORY OF OUR MEADOW

The Aquetong meadow at BHWP didn't always look the way it does today. In fact, it used to be a dense forest, until a storm came and knocked many of the trees down. After the storm, it took a long time for the meadow to grow into what it is today. The changes it went through are part of a process called succession. Below is a comic showing what happened, and some captions explaining them. Color in the pictures, and then see if you can match all of the captions to what you see. Find the caption that describes the picture the best, and label the caption with the correct number. In what order did these plants grow? How did different species help each other?



When the sun returns, people come and clear the fallen trees away. Slowly, clusters of grass and small plants begin to grow in the new space where trees once stood.

Small plants and grasses begin to grow larger without competition for space. These plants attract wildlife that are looking for food, and when they come, they drop seeds and fruits from other places.

The dense oak forest has been growing for generations. The tree canopy blocks light from reaching the ground; only a few shade-loving plants grow beneath it.

Over time, more plants begin to grow, thanks to pioneer species that add nutrients to the soil and wildlife that track in new seeds. Many different herbs and wildflowers appear, and a few small shrubs rise up to soak in the sun. The meadow is lush and colorful and everywhere you turn, there is something different to see!

One night, there is a big storm. Strong winds knock trees over and rainwater drowns the small plants and grasses.