

# Spring Flowers Help Ecosystems Come Alive

Grade 3

Science

Nonfiction

Spring flowers Theme

~140 words

NGSS.3-LS2-1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

▣ READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.

When spring arrives, flowers begin to bloom across forests, fields, and gardens. These colorful flowers are important parts of ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living things that depend on each other. Spring flowers provide food for hungry insects like bees and butterflies. These insects travel from flower to flower, drinking nectar and collecting pollen. As insects visit flowers, they help plants make seeds for new flowers. Birds eat the insects that come to flowers, getting the energy they need. Small animals like rabbits eat the leaves and seeds of spring plants. Even decomposers in the soil break down dead plants and return nutrients to the earth. Without spring flowers, many animals would not have food or shelter. Flowers connect all living things in an ecosystem together. When flowers bloom, the entire ecosystem wakes up and becomes active again.

▣ Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.

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Questions

⇒ **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

## MAIN IDEA

**1. What is this passage mostly about?**

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

**2. What does the passage say insects do when they visit flowers?**

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## VOCABULARY

**3. What does the word 'ecosystem' mean in this passage?**

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## INFERENCE

**4. Why do you think birds are attracted to flowers during spring?**

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## CAUSE AND EFFECT

**5. What happens because bees and butterflies visit spring flowers?**

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

**6. How do decomposers help the ecosystem?**

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# ✓ ANSWER KEY — Spring Flowers Help Ecosystems Come Alive

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

When spring arrives, flowers begin to bloom across forests, fields, and gardens. These colorful flowers are important parts of ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living things that depend on each other. Spring flowers provide food for hungry insects like bees and butterflies. These insects travel from flower to flower, drinking nectar and collecting pollen. As insects visit flowers, they help plants make seeds for new flowers. Birds eat the insects that come to flowers, getting the energy they need. Small animals like rabbits eat the leaves and seeds of spring plants. Even decomposers in the soil break down dead plants and return nutrients to the earth. Without spring flowers, many animals would not have food or shelter. Flowers connect all living things in an ecosystem together. When flowers bloom, the entire ecosystem wakes up and becomes active again.

## MAIN IDEA

### 1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about how spring flowers are important parts of ecosystems and help many different animals survive.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 2. What does the passage say insects do when they visit flowers?

According to the passage, insects drink nectar and collect pollen from flowers, and they help plants make seeds for new flowers.

## VOCABULARY

### 3. What does the word 'ecosystem' mean in this passage?

An ecosystem is a community of living things that depend on each other to survive.

## INFERENCE

### 4. Why do you think birds are attracted to flowers during spring?

Birds are attracted to flowers because the insects that eat the flowers provide food and energy for the birds.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### 5. What happens because bees and butterflies visit spring flowers?

Because bees and butterflies visit flowers, they help plants make seeds for new flowers to grow.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 6. How do decomposers help the ecosystem?

Decomposers break down dead plants and return nutrients to the earth so new plants can grow.