



Beneficial vs Pest Creatures in our garden - 15 minutes

Preparation:

- Identify some areas in the garden where students can easily observe creatures – flowering kale (aphids and ladybugs); compost (worms, rollie pollies); beside raised bed boards (centipedes, millipedes, chrysalis) ; flowers (bees, hover flies, butterflies); eaten plant leaves (slugs, snails, caterpillars)
- Gather beneficial and pest creature identification sheet
- Gather/create information sheets about specific creatures found in the garden
- Print beneficial and pest creature cut out pictures to allow students to ID and categorize the things they found
- Place any necessary tools at the creature ID spots (trowels to dig for centipedes; magnifier to check out aphids)

Action:

1. Describe and demonstrate to students how they will be allowed to search for creatures and that once they find a creature, they should not pick them up, but they can watch them.
2. Travel with the students to your identified locations to look for creatures.
3. Provide ID and information sheets as appropriate.
4. After touring or when time is out, offer students (or teachers) cut out pictures of the creatures to place in the beneficial or pest creature categories. (See Danae Darby Good Creatures lesson)
- 5.

Wrap up:

Are animals in our garden helpful?

How do animals help our garden?

Are there animals in our garden that harm our plants?

How do worms help the garden? How do lady bugs help the garden?

Check out the lady bug songs contained in Danae Darby lesson