Exploring, observing, and understanding the complete life cycle of wild plants in the school grounds.

Wheel of Life 2



Keywords

school grounds • crafts • nature observation • Science • English

1. Preparing the soil for growth
Begin this activity in autumn by tilling the soil in your wildflower patch to create a clear area for seeds to grow. Explain to the children that you are preparing ideal conditions for wild plant seeds to sprout, linking back to *Soil's Magic* activity from Year 1.

2. Creating the Wheel of Life
Prepare your Wheel of Life drawings. You may use the "*Wheel*" template in the Downloadable Materials if you wish and decide how many wheels to create for your class. Place them in different soil patches around the school.

3. Observing plant growth and seasonal changes
Observe your plants regularly, ensuring the dial on the Wheel of Life points to the correct stage of the cycle. Note how plants respond to weather and seasonal changes and link these observations to other subjects such as seasons and calendars. Encourage children to compare stages and notice which are longest or shortest.

4. Understanding the full plant life cycle
Go through the entire plant cycle. Emphasize that the stage when flowers dry is not "ugly" but essential for life, as seeds are forming. Explain that these seeds will grow into next year's plants and provide food for insects and birds.

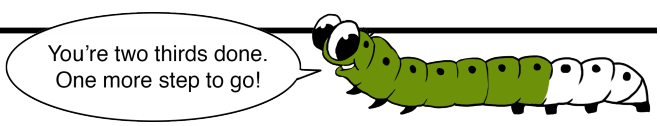
Tip: You may collect some seeds in labelled paper bags for next year but always leave plenty for nature.

Send photos of

- ☐ Children making their wheel of life
- ☐ The wheels of life at different stages
- ☐ Fixing the wheels in place

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Paper and card backing;



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- Colours;
- Butterfly clip;
- Glue;
- Scissors;
- Stick to insert in soil;

