

Tire Flower Project

A 4 week program where students use recycled materials and transform their school yard into a garden for the whole neighborhood. We will bring 36 tires to the school and get them placed and designed. Different topics of discussion will involve scientific illustration. We will talk about looking closely at plants and animals to gain an appreciation for nature and the ability to draw what we see. The Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion will bring pinned specimens for the students to draw. We will also be bringing a common hissing cockroach for students to interact with. This is the start of your garden club journal.

Week 1: Place Tires

Students have this first class to design and implement their tire gardens. Students will place and stack tires in preparation for gardening in them. Their homework will be to paint the tires.

Week 2: Filling Tires

Students will spend this class filling the tires with soil. Tire gardens are unique in that you can not plant into them directly after filling. Tires tend to easily create air pockets where soil does not get filled. Therefore, after completely filling the tires, students will need to wait 1 week for the soil to settle and top off the tires before planting next week.

Week 3: Planting

Students will plant their tire gardens! Students will also engage in a lesson about local plants, pollinators, and soil quality. Students will learn about the insects we will find both above and below ground. We will learn about superworms and what makes them super!

Week 4: Garden Party

Students will come back together to observe flower sprouts and progress while they enjoy a picnic to celebrate their creation. Students will also have a chance to interact with mammals and insects.

