



Why Do We Pull Weeds?

Video #314

Developed for Grades: 2nd - 5th

The WOW videos have been developed to inspire students to learn more about **NGSS Life Science and/or Earth Science Disciplinary Core Ideas**. These could include:

- Plants and animals (including humans) can change their environment.
- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land.
- Humans use natural resources for everything they do.
- All organisms have internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior and reproduction.
- Importance of ecosystems and habitats
- Cross cutting concepts like patterns, cause and effect, etc.

The WOW videos and their support documents can also be used with **English Language Arts**. Here are some ideas:

1. Select a few questions from the Know-It-All section and have students write their answers.
2. Have students write a story related to the topic. They could even add illustrations. For some grades students could read their stories and/or video tape their readings to share.
3. Students could write a poem, a play, or a song based on something in the video that created an emotional response for them.
4. Key words in the video can be used in creative writing assignments.
5. Older students could explore the difference in learning from video as opposed to a book. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Answer Key for Know-It-All

1. What is the best way to pull weeds, and why?

- The best way to pull weeds is to tug at the base of the plant and make sure you get the roots. We don't want the weed to grow back from its roots again. Weeds are really good at that!

2. How can you tell if a plant is a weed?

- Weeds are any unwanted plant. We generally classify weeds as plants that we do not want growing in an area where a gardener is cultivating other plants.

3. What are some ways weeds can actually be useful?

- Weeds can be composted and turned into useful soil for our plants. Because weeds are any unwanted plant, the same type of plant could be useful in other areas of the garden. Some "weeds", like calendula and nasturtium, have beautiful flowers. They might be growing in an area of the garden we didn't intend for them to grow, but they add some unexpected beauty.

4. What would happen if we used chemicals to kill weeds in our garden?

- Answers may vary. If we used chemicals to kill weeds in our garden, those chemicals might affect other neighboring plants. The chemicals could also go in the ground and affect animals in the soil, like worms, and our groundwater. Chemicals can also accumulate to a dangerous level for other animals such as birds.

