



MEADOWS & GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

**AN
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCE**

PLACES WHERE NATURE THRIVES

There are lots of important habitats for nature. These include:

- ✓ forests
- ✓ grasslands
- ✓ rivers, and
- ✓ oceans



You may have seen some of David Attenborough's films about these places, or have been fortunate enough to have visited them yourself.

There are two other places where nature can thrive - places that rarely find their way into nature films, but which you might be familiar with:

- ✓ meadows and
- ✓ gardens



A MEADOW

Bredfield has a wildlife-rich meadow: it's called the **Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard**

In spring and summer you will find lots of colourful flowers growing amongst different sorts of grasses.

None of these flowers and grasses (over 100 species) were planted here; they are all wildflowers.



The meadow is old. It was once church land.

The local farmer never ploughed it up with heavy farm machinery. It was too boggy and small to be bothered with.

He never sprayed chemicals - such as fertilisers or insecticides.

He sold the land to the village to be used as a community meadow and orchard.

WILDLIFE IN THE MEADOW

All these flowers and grasses attract plenty of insects.

You'll find **butterflies, bees, beetles, bugs, damselflies** and lots of other types of insects.

There are also other 'mini-beasts', which you might have to look harder to find: **spiders, woodlice, millipedes**.

At night, while you are asleep, the meadow will be visited by many varieties of **moth**. If you are lucky, some can be found during the day - resting in a shaded corner.

You won't find many mammals in the meadow, though **mice, rabbits, fox and deer** will come when nobody is close.

Frogs, toads and newts might be found in the wetter areas, or hiding under logs.

Birds are around, but you are more likely to see them in the surrounding hedgerows (another important habitat for wildlife).



GARDENS

Gardens can be a very important habitat for wildlife. Even the smallest garden can be made wildlife-friendly and can attract lots of birds, butterflies and bees.

- ★ **Wildlife-friendly gardens contain flowers that attract insects.**
- ★ **They have bushes and corners where wildlife can shelter and nest.**
- ★ **Some have small ponds, which attract lots of species.**
- ★ **Feeders and nest boxes help birds.**
- ★ **‘Bug hotels’ are wonderful for bees and beetles.**



*If you don't have a garden, a window box or tub of wildflowers and bird feeder might be possible.
A row of wildlife-friendly gardens create a great habitat for nature.*



Bredfield

Wildlife Friendly Village

Bredfield is trying to make itself a 'Wildlife Friendly Village'

This means that we are encouraging wildlife-friendly gardening, and we are trying to make the green spaces in the village - such as the meadow - as wildlife-friendly as possible.

WHY BE WILDLIFE FRIENDLY?

There are lots of reasons why we should try to make areas of our villages, towns and cities wildlife friendly.

The main reason is that **nature is in danger**, from 3 things:

1. **habitat loss,**
2. **chemical pollution and**
3. **climate change.**






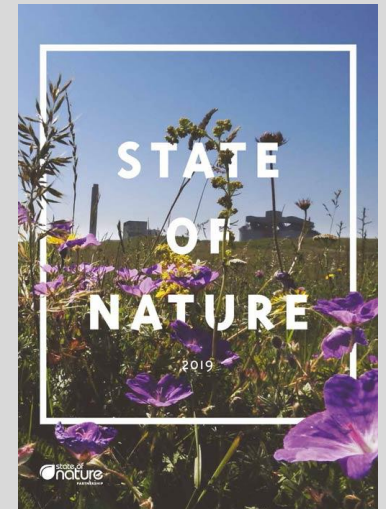
Wildlife needs havens - woodlands, rivers, meadows and gardens - in which can it can recover and thrive.

Big areas of habitat (like a large nature reserve) are good, but lots of smaller joined-up habitats will also serve nature well.

NATURE IN DANGER

According to the scientific State of Nature Report 2019:

	Since 1970, there has been a 13% decline in the average abundance of the UK wildlife species studied.
	Butterflies (down by 17%) and moths (down by 25%) have suffered particularly badly.
	26% of UK mammal species are at risk of disappearing completely.



WHAT HAS NATURE DONE FOR US?

Fruit, crops, flowers and trees, all require pollination in order to grow.

Insects - bees especially - are one of the main pollinators.

Without bees and other insects to pollinate, we would face a shortage of fruit and vegetables.

Larger insects and birds eat lots and lots of insects that we probably wouldn't want to find in much larger numbers.

Swallows and Swifts, eat huge amounts of gnats and mosquitos.

We wouldn't want to live a world where there are swarms of mosquitos, but very few birds.

If we upset the balance of nature we might bring consequences that we would greatly regret!

NATURE IS BEAUTIFUL

Lastly, we shouldn't forget the sheer beauty of nature, which can brighten up our days.

We would severely miss the sound of bird song or the sight of bright butterflies if they disappeared forever.

Even the seemingly boring small creatures can be fascinating, if we stop and look. They all play a part in the balanced web of life.



WORKSHEET

Look through the presentation – *Meadows & Gardens for Wildlife* - then answer the following questions (as fully as you can) and complete the exercises set. You might have to do some extra research.

1. Bredfield's meadow and orchard has been described as a “wildlife treasure that has survived into the 21st century”. Why is the meadow so rich in wildflowers?
2. If a meadow is rich in wildflowers, grasses and surrounding hedgerows, it is also likely to be rich in others forms of wildlife, such as insects and birds. Why is this?
3. The presentation says that, in addition to insects, other types of ‘mini-beasts’ can be found in the meadow, such as spiders, woodlice and millipedes. What is the main difference between insects and non-insects such as spiders, woodlice and millipedes?
4. Insects have been called ‘the servants of plants’. What is it that insects do to make them the ‘servants of plants’? What would happen to many plants if there were no insects?
5. Name five things that can be done to make a garden ‘wildlife-friendly’. Try drawing a picture of a garden that looks ‘wildlife-friendly’.
6. In the local area where you live, are there any parks or other green spaces that could be made more wildlife friendly? What are they, and where are they? Again, you could draw a picture or map to illustrate your answer.
7. The Presentation on *Meadows and Gardens* says that nature is suffering from the effect of three things: loss of habitat, chemical pollution and climate change. Explain what is meant by each of these three things.
8. Write a letter, or design a poster, that you think would convince people to engage in wildlife-friendly activities and help nature.