



Activity 5: These are the Visitors

Length: 1 45-minute lesson

Objectives:

Students will...

- Identify the impact of visitors in a garden.
- Recognize actions as beneficial or harmful.
- Categorize garden visitors.

Vocabulary:

Beneficial, decompose, fertilize, harmful, pollinate, resident, visitor

NGSS or Common Core Standards addressed:

K-ESS3-1 Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.

K-LS1-1 Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive.

2-LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.B.3 Classify objects into given categories; count the number of objects in each category and sort the characteristics by count.

The Pillar of Ag Lit it relates to:

The Relationship Between Agriculture and the Environment

Materials:

- Activity 5 **Critter Cards** (1/group)
- Scissors
- Activity 5 **Garden Visitors** Worksheet
- Glue/Glue Stick



Teacher Prep:

Print and cut apart a set of critter cards for each group.



Activity 5: These are the Visitors

Procedures:


1. Tell students that a garden has many living things in it.
2. Give students a **Garden Visitors** worksheet and review the names of the living critters on the cards at the bottom of the page.
3. Divide students into groups and have one student cut apart the cards from the bottom of each worksheet.
4. Have groups work together to find ways to group the different critters, then share and discuss how they grouped their cards, including where you find them, the number of legs, how they move, etc.
5. Explain to students that some living things may be residents (living somewhere on a long-term basis), and some may be visitors (stopping by or passing through).
6. Have students sort cards by resident or visitor of the garden.
7. Create a visible list of the critters on the cards and label each as a V (visitor), R (resident) or ? (unsure) based on class discussion.
8. Explain to students that some of the living things in the garden may be beneficial (good or helpful), and some may be harmful (bad or damaging).
9. Have students sort the cards by those they think are beneficial or harmful, then discuss and add labels of B (beneficial), H (harmful), or ? (unsure) to the list of critters.
10. Read *The Soil in Jackie's Garden* and have the students look for these critters throughout the story to see if they are residents or visitors and if they are harmful or beneficial.
11. Ask students, "What ways can the critters benefit the garden?" Discuss answers.
12. Ask students, "What ways can critters harm the garden?" Discuss answers.
13. Divide students into groups again and give them the prepared **Critter Cards**.
14. Have students sort these cards as beneficial or harmful based on what they remember from the story, then have them check their lists using the information on the back of the cards.
15. Have students complete their **Garden Visitors** worksheet to place the critters where they belong regarding their impact on the garden.

Optional extensions:

- Have students...
 - Complete a scavenger hunt:
 - * If you have a school garden, take students on a scavenger hunt to see how many of the critters from the story they can find in the garden.
 - * If you don't have access to a garden, do a scavenger hunt of Jackie's garden by having students go through the book's pages to find, identify and tally the different critters.
 - Play "The Buzz," a My American Farm (myamericanfarm.org) game about pollination.
 - Conduct a pollination simulation <https://bit.ly/PollinationSim>.



Activity 5: Critter Cards

Snail 	Worm 	Mole 
Ant 	Grub 	Centipede 
Butterfly 	Birds 	People 
Bees 	Beetles 	Bacteria 



Activity 5: Critter Cards

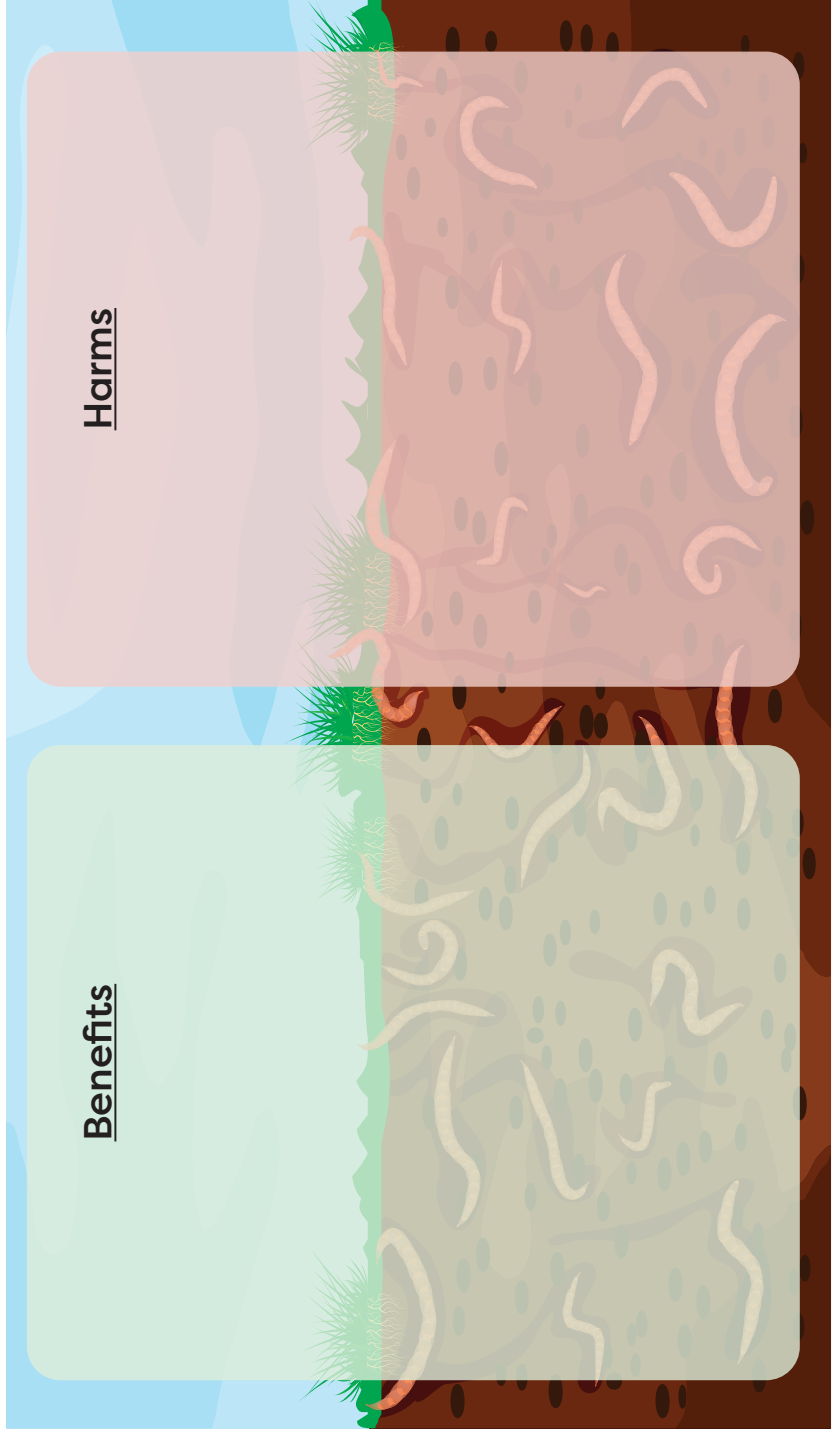
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Eat grubs and insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Decompose dead leaves and flowers•Fertilize the soil with their castings•Aerate and loosen the soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Decompose dead leaves and flowers•Fertilize the soil with their waste•Eat leaves of plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Eat insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Eat roots of plants•Aerate and loosen the soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Eat leaves of plants•Decompose waste and insects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Manage and care for garden•Control weeds and insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Eat insects•Help with pollination•Eat fruits of plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pollinate flowers of plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Decompose dead animals and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Eat leaves of plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pollinate flowers of plants



Activity 5: Garden Visitors

Garden Visitors

Directions: Cut apart the garden visitor cards below. Decide if they are mostly a benefit or harm to the garden and place them in the appropriate section of the garden.



Snail	Worm	Mole	Ant	Grub	Centipede
Butterfly	Birds	People	Bees	Beetles	Bacteria