Spring Ephemerals

What is a Spring Ephemeral?
Spring Ephemerals are some of the first plants to pop up and bloom in early spring. They typically bloom soon after emerging and die back in early to mid-summer.

In this program we will be learning the basics about Native Spring Ephemerals and how to identify a few. Paired with the video will be a plant ID sheet and a creative writing prompt to ponder and connect with these plants more deeply.

Approximate program time: 35 minutes

Additional Reading:
· Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians - Tennessee Native Plant Society
· Wildflowers & Ferns of Kentucky - Wharton & Barbour

At the end, we would love to see what you create! If you care to share your work with us, please send to Americorps@clarkambition.org
**Spring Ephemerals Identification Sheet**

**Sessile Trillium**

- Native to Kentucky.
- Grows in rich, moist woodlands.
- The flower consists of three maroon petals that maintain a closed shape.
- Three mottled leaves that consist of light and dark greens.
- The flower attracts pollinators by producing a rotten flesh odor.

![Sessile Trillium Image]

**Virginia Bluebells**

- Native to Kentucky.
- Grows in moist, rich woodlands.
- Bell shaped blue flowers with five petals.
- Flower buds are pink or purple before they bloom.
- Broad, rounded green leaves.
- Butterflies are the most common pollinator.

![Virginia Bluebells Image]

**Woody Phlox**

- Native to Kentucky.
- Grows in rich, moist woodlands.
- Name derived from the Greek work phlox, meaning flame.
- Flower is a purple lavender color with five lobes.
- Leaves are paired, narrow and far apart from each other on the stalk.

![Woody Phlox Image]
Spring Ephemerals
Nature Observation and Creative Writing

- Estimated time of completion: 30 minutes. Around 15 minutes with each prompt.
- Materials needed: Writing utensil and paper.

The point of the first prompt is to get you to observe, ask questions and think more in depth about the natural world that surrounds us. There are no wrong questions!

The point of the second prompt is to get our creativity flowing and to connect with the natural world on a deeper level. Fear not if what you create doesn’t look or sound pretty. All that matters is that you are putting pencil to paper and creating.

Nature Observation:
Presented below are some guiding questions to get you thinking more deeply about the plants presented.
- What would you expect these plants to look like in 1 week, 1 month, 3 months?
- What other moist woodland places do you think these plants would grow?
- What do these plants remind you of?
- Come up with at least three other questions about these plants.
If you cannot come up with any questions, think ”I wonder”... and see what comes to mind!

Creative Writing:
- Pick one of the plants we discussed today.
- List five words that the plant brings to mind.
- If you are with someone else, combine your list and then pick five words.
- Create a poem, song or story that includes these five words.