

Spring Ephemerals Part Two

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 continue to learn 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

Wild Ginger



- Native to Kentucky.
- Grows in rich, moist shaded areas.
- The flower is maroon and urn shaped, sitting close to the ground.
- Two heart shaped leaves that are fuzzy at the bottom.
- The rhizome of this plant smells similar to ginger root which is where it got its name.
- Pollinated by crawling insects such as ants and beetles.

Dutchman's Breeches



- Native to Kentucky.
- Grows in moist, rich woodlands.
- Flowers are white to pink and resemble a pair of pantaloons.
- Leaves are compound and highly dissected, giving it an almost fern like appearance.

Jacob's Ladder



- Native to Kentucky.
- Grows in rich, moist woodlands.
- Blue to lavender bell-shaped flowers consisting of five petals.
- Leaves are compound and pinnate, giving it a ladder like appearance.

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 kind of smells do you think these plants would have?
 - In what ways are these plants similar and different?
 - Do you think these plants would grow near each other?
 - 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:

- If you were one of the plants we discussed today which one would you be?
- In what ways are you similar?
- In what ways are you different?
- Would the color or smell of the plant change if it were you?
- Create a poem, song or story about you as one of these plants.

