



Community School Connections

May 2021



Let's Celebrate Our Teachers!



This year, May 3rd - May 7th is Teacher Appreciation Week, with Teacher Appreciation Day falling on Tuesday, May 4th. There are many ways to show your teachers how much you appreciate their hard work. It can be as simple as a thank you note, email or video!

For more ideas, visit: <https://www.skiptomylou.org/teacher-appreciation-ideas>

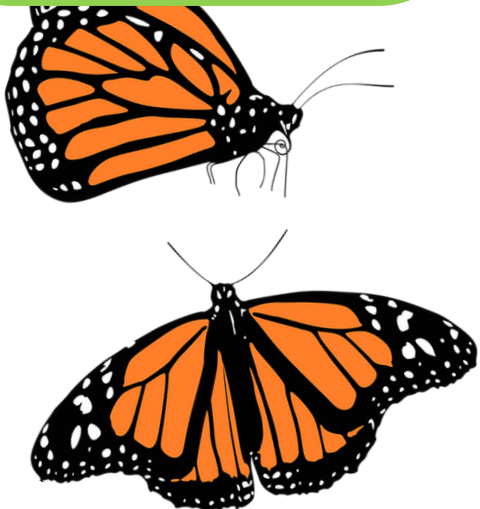


Memorial Day is coming up on Monday, May 31st.

Originally called Decoration Day, the holiday honors the men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. military.

To read about the history of Memorial Day, visit

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>



Want a fun and inexpensive way to support native plants and flowers? Try making seed balls with your family!

Materials

Clay (available from craft stores)
Compost or potting soil
Seeds

Instructions

- ◆ Divide your materials so you have:
 - 5 parts clay
 - 1 part compost/potting soil
 - 1 part seeds
- ◆ Combine the clay and compost. Add a little water if your mixture is dry. The mixture should be moist but not dripping wet - similar to the consistency of cookie dough.
- ◆ Add the seeds to the clay and compost/soil. Thoroughly work the materials together with your hands.
- ◆ Shape the mixture into balls about the size of a golf ball.
- ◆ You can plant the seed balls while they're still moist, or allow them to air dry.
- ◆ Toss or place your seed balls directly onto bare soil. As long as they are watered (either manually or by rain), the clay will break down and the seeds will grow.



Seeds of native wildflowers work especially well in seed balls because they are adapted for your climate. These plants also provide a food source for local pollinators.

<https://www.wildflower.org/> has an extensive database of plants native to North America. From their main webpage, select the "Native Plants" heading to search for a specific plant by name or to see a list of those specific to NY State.

Source: <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-activities-seed-balls/>