

## *Weeds and Plants in Ireland*

When you are out in your garden or in any green area, you may be lucky enough to see lots of flowers. Some of these flowers are **cultivated** flowers and some of them are **weeds**.

How do we tell the difference?

Plants which are **intentionally** grown in a garden or another area are called cultivated plants. Any plants that are not wanted, or that are not meant to grow there, are known as weeds.

Even though weeds are unwanted, we must remember that they can still be beautiful and useful! Dandelions are a beautiful, **vibrant** yellow colour that grow in grass. While these are **considered** weeds, they are actually the bees' and other **pollinators**' first food of the season! So, even though they are weeds, they are very important for **ensuring** our pollinators get enough nourishment to continue doing their jobs.



Nettles are considered weeds also. These plants can sting you if you touch their stem or the underside of their leaves. They are covered in sharp hairs that inject an **irritant** into your skin if you touch it. Even though nettles are **unsightly** and can sting, there are some positives to them too! Nettle leaves have **historically** been brewed to make a refreshing tea. Today some people still drink nettle tea, but many **opt** to buy teabags rather than risking picking the leaves themselves!



Dock leaves are another weed that many people know of as they are a simple way to **soothe** a nettle sting. These weeds often grow close to nettles which is useful if you've just been stung! Dock leaves contain sap that soothes nettle stings.





many children have passed happy hours making daisy chains to be worn as crowns, necklaces and bracelets.

There are many other weeds that are common in Ireland, can you think of any others?

Finally, some weeds are just fun to play with! Buttercups are a beautiful yellow colour and many people believe that if you hold a buttercup flower under someone's chin, it will tell you whether or not they like butter! Daisies are a well-known weed also and



## Dictionary Work

Can you match the words to their meanings? The first one is done for you! Use a dictionary or an online dictionary to help you.

Cultivate	To think carefully about
Weeds	Bright
Intentionally	To make sure or certain
Vibrant	To plant and grow
Consider	Ugly
Pollinator	To help take away
Ensure	Any plant that grows wild where it is not wanted
Irritant	Something that causes irritation
Unsightly	To decide or to choose
Opt	Animals that move or carry pollen to a plant
Soothe	Done on purpose

## Dictionary Work Answer Sheet

Cultivate	To think carefully about
Weeds	Bright
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## Cloze Procedure

Can you put the correct words in the blank spaces? The first one is done for you!

cultivated	weeds	intentionally	vibrant	considered
pollinators	ensure	unsightly	opt	soothe

- Plants that are planted because they are wanted are cultivated.
- The mother used a dock leaf to \_\_\_\_\_ her child's nettle sting.
- Plants that are unwanted are called \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I go out for dinner I usually \_\_\_\_\_ for a glass of coke instead of water.
- The bully \_\_\_\_\_ made the child cry and the teacher caught him.
- Weeds can be \_\_\_\_\_ but they can still be useful!
- The artist painted in beautiful, \_\_\_\_\_ colours.
- When the child went out to a restaurant they \_\_\_\_\_ their order very carefully.
- 'Please \_\_\_\_\_ that you rule your page and write the date,' instructed the teacher.
- Bees are \_\_\_\_\_ and one of their first food sources is dandelions!

## Cloze procedure answer sheet

1. Plants that are planted because they are wanted are **cultivated**.
2. The mother used a dock leaf to **soothe** her child's nettle sting.
3. Plants that are unwanted are called **weeds**.
4. When I go out for dinner I usually **opt** for a glass of coke instead of water.
5. The bully **intentionally** made the child cry and the teacher caught him.
6. Weeds can be **unsightly** but they can still be useful!
7. The artist painted in beautiful, **vibrant** colours.
8. When the child went out to a restaurant they **considered** their order very carefully.
9. 'Please **ensure** that you rule your page and write the date,' instructed the teacher.
10. Bees are **pollinators** and one of their first food sources is dandelions!

## *Comprehension Questions*

**Can you answer these questions? Ask for help if you need it!**

1. If a plant is unwanted, what is it called?

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2. Give two examples of how some weeds can be useful.

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3. Name the weed that can be used to soothe a nettle sting.

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4. If a plant is intentionally grown, what is it called?

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5. How can some weeds provide fun activities for children?

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