



MILKWEED COLLECTION JARS



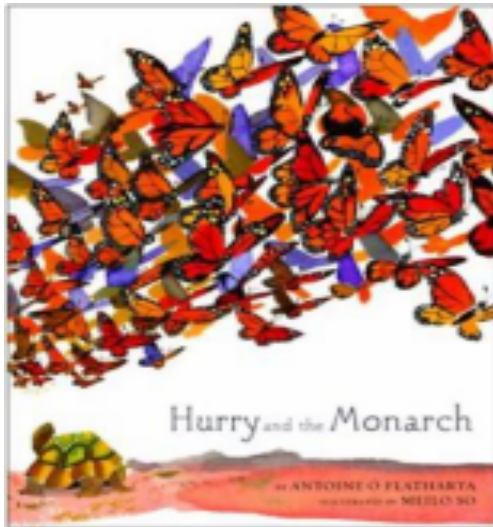
Summary: A fun way for students to procure the ever-important Milkweed seeds! By shaking the insides of Milkweed pods around in jars, the “fluff” becomes separated from the seeds, making them easier to collect and save.

Length: 15-30 minutes

Ages: preK-5th grade

Materials needed:

- Mason-style jars with fitted rings (no ‘lid’ necessary)
- Milkweed pods (A note about when to harvest: The seeds should be brown and leathery when mature, though the pods themselves may still be green. You can test an unopened pod for maturity by applying gentle pressure to the seam—it should open readily)
- Wide-weave mesh fabric (repurposed citrus bags work perfectly!)
- A few coins
- Containers for collected seeds



Procedure:

1. Depending on the age group and prior knowledge of students involved, we recommend beginning with a book about the importance of Monarchs and Milkweed (such Hurry and the Monarch by Antoine O Flatharta).
2. If the location and timing allow, collect milkweed pods from plants with the students. (See note above about timing for pod collection).
3. Open the pods carefully and place the contents into the jars, along with 3-5 coins.
4. Place the mesh over the jar opening, doubling it if necessary, depending on the weave width of your chosen material. Secure with the fitted ring.
5. Allow students to take turns shaking the jar gently (Be sure to stress that the jar is glass!) and note how the seeds separate from the ‘fluff.’
6. Shake jars upside down and into an open container when you are ready to collect the seeds.
7. If the students are taking the seeds home, be sure to include instructions about how and when to plant.

Questions? More info? Please visit us at www.communityfoodinitiatives.org