

Learn about the importance of bluebonnets and other wildflowers in Texas. As you get your daily dose of nature, here's how you can further engage your little ones with some hands-on learning.

1. Don't have Tommie dePaula's book, *Legend of the Bluebonnet*? Check out this reading [here](#) and be sure to check out the [discussion guide](#) by Scholastic.
2. For a list of hands-on activities, click [here](#). Enjoy making a doll out of recycled materials, or re-create the story using finger puppets. Whether you make them from felt, or paper, old gloves, there are plenty of ideas on youtube. Here's one idea using [paper](#).
3. Kennedy Center has some great arts-integrated lessons, and *Moccasins are Made for Dancing* explores the role of dance in Native American storytelling. Check it out [here](#) and practice your dance moves! Recommended ages: 11-13, or grades 5-8.
4. The **U.S. Forest Service** has an amazing online collection of not so ordinary printable [coloring pages](#). It includes color by numbers, wildflower facts, part of the flower, and even noxious weeds! Although it isn't specific to our area of Texas, it's still fun nonetheless. Don't stop at the color pages, explore other topics as well—this could keep your kiddos engaged for a while!
5. **Did you know bluebonnets are in the legume family?** That's right, that's the same family as peas, lentils, peanuts, and other important food staples, AND it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest plant family. Read more about legumes [here](#) and enjoy this lesson on why you should make legumes an important part of your diet. If you like cooking and making simple meals with the family, check out these fun recipes [here](#).
6. **Can you name the parts of a flower?** Check out this [video](#) from Dr. Binocs and learn the parts of a flower! Also take a look at these activities that reinforce the concepts learned. For early childhood activities, click [here](#), and don't miss the science of how flowers drink experiment and flower scented dough. For older grades (3<sup>rd</sup> and up), check out this [link](#) for plant structures and functions.
7. Spring has arrived and wildflowers are blooming! **Can you count all the different wildflowers where you live?** As you're spending time outdoors, discovering new plants and flowers, record what you find with the free [iNaturalist app](#). In the app, click 'observe,' snap a picture of the plant you're looking, and hit "what did you see." iNaturalist will then provide you with the name, image, and description of the species it thinks you've found. Now you can ID your flowers and trees and contribute to citizen science.

8. Can you **write your own folktale** about wildflowers? After watching the reading of *Legend of the Bluebonnet*, write your own story about a wildflower that represents your school. Use this downloadable graphic [outline](#) from Scholastic to help you get started. Here's another [resource](#) to help you and your child(ren) further engage in the storytelling process. For more inspiration, refer to the Texas Wildflowers Legends & Folktales [here](#).