

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Peace with Dandelions

by Liana Mahoney



plants with chemicals. But our war with the dandelion may soon be over.

Although considered a weed, it's no secret that the dandelion has its uses. Young dandelion leaves, called "greens," make a delicious and highly nutritious salad. Dandelion plants have a long, thin root called a taproot, which grows deep into the soil. The taproot creates tunnels in the soil, which allow water and air to mix in and keep soil healthy. Dandelion flowers also attract ladybugs. Ladybugs are good to have in gardens because they feast on small insect pests. Despite its useful leaves, roots, and flowers, however, most people still think of the dandelion as a simple weed. It's the sap, though, that just might change their minds.



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1. Does the author have a positive or negative view of dandelions? Explain your answer.

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2. Which fact is not mentioned in the article?

- a. Dandelions help keep soil healthy.
- b. Dandelions can make a delicious snack.
- c. Dandelions can make a lawn look more colorful.
- d. Dandelions might be used to make rubber someday.

3. According to the article, how might dandelion rubber be better than rubber from rubber trees?

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4. Tell whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.  
Write F or O on the line next to each sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Some people pluck dandelions from their lawns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dandelions make a great addition to any lawn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dandelions are tasty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ladybugs eats small garden pests.

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Write a story to explain what's happening in the picture. Use facts from the article in your story.

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## ANSWER KEY

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1. Does the author have a positive or negative view of dandelions? Explain your answer.

The author has a positive view of dandelions because she explains how dandelions can be beneficial to humans throughout the article.



2. Which fact is not mentioned in the article? **c**

- a. Dandelions help keep soil healthy.
- b. Dandelions can make a delicious snack.
- c. Dandelions can make a lawn look more colorful.
- d. Dandelions might be used to make rubber someday.

3. According to the article, how might dandelion rubber be better than rubber from rubber trees?

Many people are allergic to rubber made from rubber trees. They might not be allergic to rubber made from dandelion sap.

Also accept: Many rubber trees are dying of fungus. If we make rubber from dandelions we would not need to use these rubber trees.

4. Tell whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.  
Write F or O on the line next to each sentence.

- F** Some people pluck dandelions from their lawns.
- O** Dandelions make a great addition to any lawn.
- O** Dandelions are tasty.
- F** Ladybugs eats small garden pests.