

Classroom Activity and Lesson Outline for K-3

Planting in the Garden & Seed starting	Working in teams, students plan their garden and plant fall vegetables while learning what different plants need in order to grow. Students learn how to start seeds, care for them indoors, and transplant them into the garden. They will gain knowledge of what a seed needs to sprout.	October
Introduction to Watering the Garden	Students will learn that plants need water just like people and animals need water. They will explore dry and wet soil and be able to describe the difference between them. Students will practice testing soil for dampness using their fingers and will be introduced to a rain gauge and its purpose.	October
Searching the Garden Safely	As a class, students will create “garden tips” that will teach and reinforce appropriate garden behavior. Students will use their senses to explore and investigate the world around them.	October
Garden Alphabet Book	Students will make observations and build an understanding of the properties of common objects in the garden. They will share information about what is in the garden by describing the objects through illustration and descriptive writing.	November
Changing Leaves and Changing Seasons	Teach students about changing seasons and the season of autumn. Students create a leaf spinner and record daily temperatures.	November
Roots in the Garden and on the Plate	This project introduces students to the different components of plants and explores the job of roots for plant health. The kids explore different roots that are edible and start growing a sweet potato root in the classroom. Students take a trip to the garden, and explore the roots of weeds.	December
Stem Exploration	Continue teaching students about the parts of plants and their functions. Use the garden to teach a hands-on plant based activity.	December
Harvesting in the Garden	Students learn proper harvesting methods and work together to begin harvesting the vegetables they planted.	December
Garden Friends (Insects and More!)	Students learn about insects and bugs that live in the garden and discover which are beneficial or harmful to the plants. They learn the basic anatomy of insects and make fingerprint insect paintings. After the kids learn about insects, they go out to the garden to see if they can find and/or identify any bugs.	January
Soil Exploration	Through garden exploration, students will learn about the properties of soil and why soil is important to plants. They will closely observe soil and practice tallying and reporting results of soil experiments.	January

<u>Garden Amendments</u>	In this lesson, students learn about soil and the nutrients plants need to thrive, complete a soil-based journaling activity, and add amendments to their garden bed.	February
<u>Seasons on a Farm</u>	Students learn about seasonal weather patterns and their effects on local farms and gardens. Use qualitative and quantitative measurements to describe weather.	February
<u>Butterfly Life Cycle</u>	Students take a close look at a butterfly's life cycle and learn about the life cycles of all insects. They make a butterfly life cycle book and take a trip to the garden to observe butterflies.	March
<u>Soil Temperature</u>	Students will use thermometers to measure soil temperature and use the information to determine if the soil is warm enough to support plant growth.	March
<u>Poetry in the Garden</u>	Students use their five senses to observe the garden and record what they hear, feel, smell, see, and taste through writing a variety of poems.	April
<u>All About Worms</u>	Teach students about life cycles by learning about worms and the ways they benefit the garden and farms. Through reading literature and completing hands-on activities, the class will conduct a worm investigation and observe that the organisms (and other animals) need food, air and space to grow.	May
<u>Honey Bees</u>	Students learn about communication by exploring honey bees and comparing them to other insects and animals. This lesson introduces students to the collaboration and cooperative efforts required for honey bee survival.	May