

Farm to School Lesson Menu

Lesson	Description	Garden Activity	Key Concepts	Grades	Length (minutes)	Indoor/Outdoor
Exploring the Garden through Writing	Learn to observe the plants, animals, and benefits of the garden and use it as a basis for critical thinking and creative or persuasive writing.	Observing and Writing	Observation skills, Environmental awareness, Language arts	K-12	30-60	I/O
Exploring the Garden through Art	Students will draw on what they experience in the garden as inspiration for visual art projects or observational drawing.	Observing and Creating	Observation skills, Observational drawing, Color and shading, Creative expression	K-12	30-60	I/O
Exploring the Garden through Scientific Observation	The garden is a platform for first-hand observation of living plants and animals and how we as scientists can learn from them. Higher grades will learn more rigorous research techniques (e.g. biodiversity surveys).	Observation, Measurement, Drawing, Writing	Making scientific observations, Measuring, Counting, Data collection, Data analysis	K-12	30-60	O
Garden Laboratory	Learn how to create, conduct, and analyze scientific experiments while also learning what affects the growth and health of the plants and animals in the garden. <i>*Requires minimum 2 class sessions and commitment of a garden bed or classroom space to experiments.</i>	Planting, Garden care, Data collection	Scientific method, Making and testing hypotheses, Data collection, Data Analysis, Measuring, Counting	2-12	45*	I/O
History in the Garden	Learn the fascinating history of where our plants and food come from, who helped them become the plants we know today, and how they've affected everything from the Salem Witch Trials to the prevalence of peanut butter. <i>Can be tailored to classroom history units.</i>	Can be linked to plants growing in the garden.	History of people, plants, and culture, Appreciation for importance of plants.	K-12	45	I
Soil Types	Learn about soil composition and what's in the soil at school.	Soil collection, observation, and manipulation	Soil composition, Soil health, Plant nutrition and growth, Scientific method	K-12	45	O
Soil Health	After learning about what makes soil healthy for plants and for people, test the soil at your school and determine what it needs to be healthy. Excellent as a follow-up to Soil Types.	Soil collection, observation, and testing	Soil health, Garden ecology, Environmental awareness, Plant nutrition and growth, Scientific method	2-12	45-60	I/O
Worms	Discover the anatomy, importance, and delight of worms in the garden.	Worm observations (indoor or outdoor)	Worm anatomy and behavior, Garden ecology, Environmental awareness, Scientific observation	K-12	45	I/O

Build a Worm Bin	Build a worm bin for your classroom, where worms will digest fruit and vegetable scraps and make good soil for the garden. Extended learning about what worms eat, their importance, and where they like to live. <i>Extra charge for materials provided.</i>		Worm behavior, Garden ecology, Environmental awareness, Decomposition	K-12	45	I
Compost	Discover why we compost, what's in it, and how it goes from food scraps to healthy soil.	If compost facilities on-site, observing and building the compost	Decomposition, Environmental awareness, Chemical composition of plants and soil, Plant nutrition	K-12	30-45	I (O if compost on site)
Weather in the Garden	Learn about and observe weather patterns in the garden and how they affect plant growth.	Weather observations	Weather patterns, Plant needs	3-12	30-45	I/O
Seasonality	Students will learn why different plants grow in different seasons, and how this connects to the parts of the plants that we eat	Can link to garden vegetables or include seasonal observations	Seasons, Plant needs, Plant parts, Garden planning	K-12	30-60	I/O
Water in the Garden	Every plant needs water – but where does it come from, and how much do they need? Learn how to water the plants in the garden. Older children will experiment to see how different methods of watering affect the soil.	Watering	Properties of water and soil, Plant needs, Gravity, Erosion, Scientific observation (older children)	2-12	45	O
Plan a Garden	Learn about plant seasonality, plant families, plant needs, and how plants work together in a garden to plan and design your own dream garden.		Seasonality, Plant needs, Garden ecology, Environmental awareness, Mathematics, and Design	3-12	45-60	I
Seed Adaptations	Seeds have many adaptations that enable them to rest, grow, travel, and stay alive. Learn what these adaptations are while observing different kinds of seeds and fruits. In longer classes with older students, students will be able to design their own seeds.	Planting	Adaptations, How a seed grows, the Journey of a seed, Seed survival	K-12	30-60	I
How a Plant Grows	Investigate plant life cycles and the journey from seed to sprout to fruit. <i>Optional extension: planting seeds to grow and observe in the classroom.</i>	Planting, Garden Care, Harvesting (as applicable and available)	Plant life cycles, Seed anatomy, Germination, Plant parts	K-12	30-60	I/O
Plant Families	Discover the patterns among how we grow plants and eat them, and learn how these patterns come from how plants are related to one another.	Can be linked to plants in the garden	Families and relatedness, Garden ecology, Pattern finding and grouping, Where our food comes from	K-12	30-60	I

Plant Genetics	The study of genetics began with peas, so we take it back to the garden as we examine plant families, genetics, and selective breeding.		Mendelian genetics, Phylogenetic trees, Natural and artificial selection	5-12	60	I
Food Webs and Garden Ecology	Discover the plants and animals that live in the garden and how they are all interconnected: learn who eats whom, who competes with each other, and where shelter comes from. Younger classes discover simple food chains and webs.	Possible garden observations	Predation, Competition, Food webs and chains, Environmental awareness	K-12	30-60	I/O
Pollination Makes it Happen	Learn the importance of pollination in the garden and how insects, wind, mammals, and other factors make it possible. Longer classes of older students can design their own flowers.	Possible garden observations	Plant reproduction, Fruit and seed production, Pollination, Adaptations	2-12	45-60	I/O
Competition in the Garden	Learn the fascinating ways in which plants compete with each other for nutrients in the garden, and why gardeners weed.	Thinning or Weeding	Competition, Plant nutrition, Adaptations	4-12	45-60	O
Where Does My Food Come From?	Track the path of food from farm to factory to plate. Learn what parts of the plants we eat, where our food comes from, and how to choose fresh foods.		Plant biology, Social history of food, Food composition, Nutrition	2-12	45	I
Taste of the Garden	Harvest a simple snack and taste it in the garden	Harvesting and tasting	Plant biology, Food composition, Food preparation	K-12	30-60	O
Food Preparation and Cooking	Learn to prepare and cook fresh fruits and vegetables. Topics can include food safety, knife skills, reading recipes, and much more. <i>Multiple classes available based on preparation technique and focus food – contact us to find out more!</i>		Plant biology, Food composition, Food preparation, Food safety, Nutrition, Reading, Measuring	2-12	45-60	I