

What jobs and supplies are involved in growing a garden?

MY OWN FOOD CHAIN PROGRAM (K-2)

Everyone has a Chore!

(ILS 5A)

Overview

This curriculum explores the relationship between people and the food they eat. It aims to give children in grades K-2 a basic understanding of the flow of energy through the food chain, and the place of people in the food chain. If teachers complete the entire curriculum, their classes will explore food chains in nature, focusing on its individual links and looking at the flow of energy as a whole. Students will then look at the place of people in the food chain, and discover how people have appropriated nature's systems in agricultural practices – making the food chain our own. Classes will compare traditional and sustainable agricultural practices.

Sustainable Agriculture, for the purpose of this curriculum, shall be defined as "a system of food production, supported by consumers, where farming operations, practices and technologies work in harmony with the natural systems that sustain life on earth."

Suggested Grade Level

This curriculum is designed for kindergarten through second grade levels. The topics covered can be built upon in complexity throughout that age range.

Approximate Time

Approx 30 min., in March.

Objectives

1. The students will figure out what chores and upkeep are required to grow a garden.
2. The students will begin preparation for their own garden.

Activity Abstract

In this lesson, students will discuss the chores that are necessary to keep a garden healthy and productive. They will prepare to plant their garden by finding seeds and supplies.

Background Information

It is important for kids to do the work involved in gardening – from planning to weeding. However, at this young age, not all tasks may be appropriate for kids, and adults may have to do some chores after school. See

http://www.svn.net/growpepl/tips_for_gardening_with_ki.htm for gardening with kids tips.

Materials

- Organic seed catalogs, 1 for each group of 4 students
- Money
- Extra adults/parent helpers

Procedure

1. **Tap Prior Knowledge.** Remind students that we chose our garden layout last time. Draw the plan on the board.
2. **Share with neighbor.** If they had a garden, what did they have to do to upkeep the garden? If not, what do they think they'd have to do to maintain a garden? Have class share brainstorms and keep a list on the board.
3. **Introduce (scientific) principle.** Go through list and hint at any missing aspects. The list should include buying the seeds, planting the seeds, watering the garden, keeping the weeds, bugs and bunnies away (pest management), harvesting the veggies, selling the veggies,
4. Create a chart with a time table for when these tasks will occur. This will vary based on the plants you chose.
5. Ask the class what supplies they think they need to start their garden. Brainstorm list on the board. Make sure it includes seeds, shovels, pots and soil to start plants indoors, weeding materials, a hose and/or watering can, gardening gloves.
6. Have class split into groups of 4. Give each group a seed catalog.
7. Explain that each group has to find the seeds they need to order in the catalog. If they can, they should work with an adult to read about the seeds, figure out how far apart they need to grow and how many the class can fit in their space. Working with an adult, have the groups prepare the catalog order form. Alternately, the kids can prepare a "shopping list," which the teacher (or whole class) can go to the garden store/nursery and purchase.
8. Compare group results. If you use a catalog, there will be differences because there are a lot of varieties of each plant type (adults can read descriptions to kids and help them figure out what type they want).
9. After class, procure the seeds so you can be ready for next time! Also, procure the supplies needed to garden, either by soliciting donations from families of old tools, or by purchasing them.

References

Gardens for Growing People: Tips for Gardening with Kids.

http://www.svn.net/growpepl/tips_for_gardening_with_ki.htm