



# Cucumber Exploration

## Goal

Introduce students to cucumbers and how they grow.

## Curriculum Alignment

Find a list of which Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards this lesson plan aligns with on the lesson plan page at [www.growing-minds.org](http://www.growing-minds.org).

## Materials

### **Cucumber Exploration**

- Magnifying glasses
- Small paper plates
- Local cucumbers – different varieties, slicing and pickling

### **Journal**

- White and colored paper
- Pictures of cucumbers growing
- Crayons/colored pencils

### **Preparation**

Wash, dry, and cut cucumber into pieces right before lesson.

## Activities

### **Read a book**

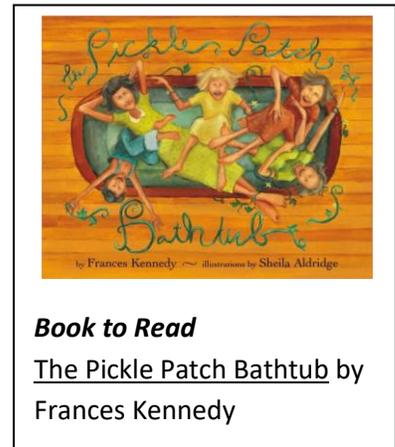
The Pickle Patch Bathtub follows a chronological story line, progressing month by month, and describes one girl's journey planting and harvesting cucumbers at her family farm.

### **Vegetable Exploration**

Have students seen cucumbers growing? Show the students photographs of cucumbers growing. Explain that cucumbers grow on vines and that vines can climb. Ask students if they know of any other vegetables or fruits that grow on vines. Explain that cucumbers are members of the gourd family along with melons, pumpkins, and squash, all of which grow on vines. Show the students photos of cucumbers and other vegetables growing on vines. Show the students different varieties of cucumbers. Pass around one slicing and one pickling cucumber. Ask the students to describe the differences.

### **Taste the Cucumbers**

Pass out the pieces of cucumbers and ask each student to try one. Ask them to describe how the cucumber tastes and feels.





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## Observations

Give the students a second slice of cucumber and ask them to look closely at the slice through their magnifying glass. What do they see? What are the different colors they can see? How many seeds can they count in their cucumber slice? For older students ask them to use a plastic knife to cut the circle slice in half and then in half again. Describe that the half represents a fraction of the whole circle and then one fourth of the whole slice. Put the pieces back together to show the full circle.

## Make a Journal Page

Ask the students to make a journal page about cucumbers. Choose to provide them with pictures of cucumbers to use for a collage, ask them to draw a cucumber growing on a vine, or ask them to write cucumber characteristics or facts.