



Garden Alphabet

Goals

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.

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.

Materials

- White cardstock (one sheet per student)
- Clipboards
- Crayons/ colored pencils
- Alphabet Word Strips

Preparation

Before this lesson brainstorm a few words of things that you can find in the garden, actions you do in the garden, or adjective/noun pairings of things in the garden for each letter in the alphabet. Make sure they are things that the students can observe in the garden. Cut this list into strips – one letter per piece so students can use it as a reference during the lesson (or use the Alphabet Word Strips included with lesson materials).

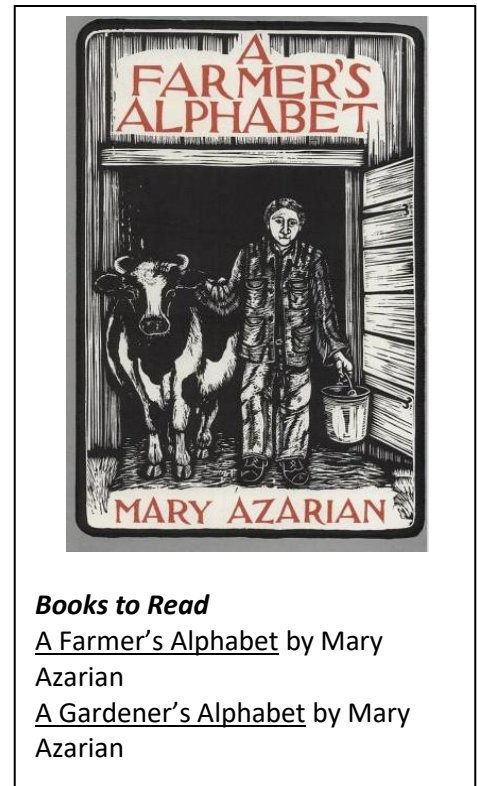
Activities

Introduction

Explain to students that we need to tell more people about the garden and that the people in the school (teachers, principal, cafeteria staff, other students, and parents) all want to know what is in our garden. Ask them if they will help tell people about what's in the garden. One way we can do this is to create an alphabet book of our garden.

Read a book and distribute letters

Start by showing the students an example of an ABC book, and then read one together. Suggested books are [A Farmer's Alphabet](#) and [A Gardener's Alphabet](#) by Mary Azarian. Call out the letter and engage students by allowing them to read the word that corresponds with the letter on the page. Point out that



Books to Read

[A Farmer's Alphabet](#) by Mary Azarian

[A Gardener's Alphabet](#) by Mary Azarian



Garden Alphabet

each page contains 1) one letter written clearly, 2) a word starting with the letter, and 3) a picture that illustrates the word.

Next, brainstorm things that we would find in the garden. Have the alphabet word strips in hand and start going through the alphabet. Explain that adjectives and verbs work too, such as *extra sweet strawberries*. Have the students raise their hands with examples and when a student calls out something that they would find in the garden, give them the corresponding alphabet strip, and tell them that they have been assigned that letter. Continue until each student has a letter/alphabet strip.

Illustrating

Each student will receive a clipboard with a piece of white cardstock attached and a pencil. Explain to the students that they will go outside and find an object in the garden that starts with the letter on their alphabet strip. Ask them to recall and replicate what we saw in the ABC books that we looked at: draw the letter at the top of the page, write the word clearly, and draw a picture that represents the word. Provide an example on the board. You could also give students paper that includes lines and prompt them to write one or two sentences about their garden object.

Once each student decides what they want to look for in the garden, ask them to circle or underline the word on their alphabet strips so that they remember what they are looking for and illustrating in the garden. It's time to explore the garden and draw their object!

Have a variety of colors of markers or pencils for the students to use. Once they have finished their drawings ask them to sign their name on the back.

Follow up

Compile all the drawings into your class's own garden ABC book!

