



Searching the Garden Safely

Goals

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.

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.

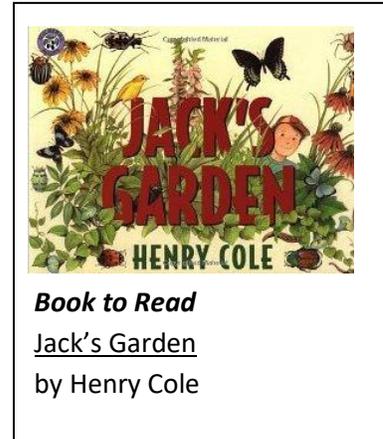
Materials

-Brown paper bags

Activities

In Class Discussion

Begin the lesson by talking with students about the garden and the different things they will find there, including garden beds with living, growing plants, pathways, grassy areas, etc.



Book to Read

[Jack's Garden](#)

by Henry Cole

Ask the students to brainstorm some classroom rules that might apply to time in the garden too. Work as a group to make a list of “Garden Rules,” such as stay on the paths, handle plants gently, always share with classmates, etc. Try to help students phrase the garden rules positively, by stating the behavior they want to see in the garden rather than behavior they don’t want to see. For example, “walk at all times” rather than “no running.” Guide students in phrasing their garden rules in complete sentences. Tell the students that because they came up with good garden rules, they are ready to explore the garden safely.

Garden Activity

Give each student a small paper bag. Take the class to the garden or schoolyard, and ask each student to find one small "mystery" item to put in their bag.

After everyone has their items, split the class into groups of six or seven. Each group should sit in a circle and pass the bags around one at a time. Instruct students to reach inside the bag and feel the item without peeking at it or talking. Students are usually very tempted to peek and talk about the object! Emphasize that they are only using their sense of TOUCH to guess the mystery garden object. Ask students wait to share their guesses with the group until everyone has had a chance to feel the object. After everyone has had a chance to explore the mystery object, see if the group can identify what it is. Ask them to describe what the objects feel like. Are they smooth or bumpy? Hard or soft? This allows them to practice using senses other than sight. Repeat this process with all of the students’ bags in the group.



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Sorting

After all the items are identified, you can compile them and ask students to think of different ways to sort and categorize them (living and not living, edible and non-edible, by color, etc). Students can sort and order the objects by length and compare the lengths of the objects. Which is the longest? Which is the shortest? Measure both and determine how much longer the longest object is than the shortest object.

Read a Book

Read Jack's Garden to the class. At each page, ask the class to identify things they saw in the school garden during their garden activity. What do they want to look for next time they go to the garden?