

Theme: Garden Design

Grade Level: K-6

Time Required: 50 minutes

of Students: whole class activity

Dream Gardens

Compiled by Emily Harris from lessons by Evan Wong, Keri Keifer, Thea Carlson, Becky Button, and the HNLCP staff

Summary:

Students will brainstorm the elements in a school garden and draw a picture of their dream garden. Student designs will be incorporated into the master plan for the outdoor classroom.

Standards:

Grade K

ELA 1.17 Identify and sort common words in basic categories (e.g., colors, shapes foods)

Grade 1

Measurement and Geometry 2.4 Arrange and describe objects in space by proximity, position, and direction.

Grade 2

History and Social Studies 2.2 Students demonstrate map skills by describing the absolute and relative locations of people, places, and environments.

Grade 3

Physical Sciences 1a Students know energy comes from the sun to Earth in the form of light.

Grade 4

Life Sciences 3a Students know ecosystems can be characterized by their living and nonliving components.

Grade 5

Investigation and experimentation 6a Classify objects (e.g. rocks, plants, leaves) in accordance with appropriate criteria.

Grade 6

Life Sciences 5a Students know energy entering ecosystems as sunlight is transferred by producers into chemical energy through photosynthesis and then from organism to organism through food webs.

Objectives:

- 1- Students will contribute their ideas to the school garden design process.
- 2- Students will develop their concept of a school garden.

Materials:

- ❖ 1 piece of white 8"x11" paper for each student
- ❖ Regular and colored pencils
- ❖ Rulers (optional)
- ❖ Photos and drawings of gardens
- ❖ Bird's eye view visual
- ❖ fruit & vegetable photo cards
- ❖ K-3 Storybook about building a garden (optional)
- ❖ 4-6 Powerpoint slideshow with garden design ideas (optional)

Background:

In order to build the best possible community garden for our school, we need input from everyone from kindergartners to community members. The more ideas we can integrate, the more wonderful our garden will be. This is an educational garden, so ideas should be geared towards creating a garden in which to learn about science, math, language arts, social studies, and nutrition.

Procedure:

Intro

1. Tell students that we are preparing to build a school garden (or continue building the existing garden). Explain that today we will be coming up with ideas for what that garden will be like.

2. K - 3 (optional)

Read a story about building a garden. These are some suggested books:

Mr. Hobson's Garden, by Marc Gave

City Green, by Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan

Growing Vegetable Soup, by Lois Ehlert

The Ugly Vegetables, by Grace Lin

Planting a Rainbow, by Lois Ehlert

Jack's Garden, by Henry Cole

Idea Brainstorm

3. Ask students to brainstorm ideas of what we will need to have in our garden. Write students' answers on the board. After a few items are written on the board, have students come up with categories for the garden components they are listing (vegetables, fruits, flowers, insects, structures etc.) and have each student put their suggestion in one of the categories. Use the fruit and vegetable cards to illustrate students' ideas of food crops to plant.

4. Show the students photos or a slideshow of pictures from other school and community gardens. Emphasize different garden design elements they may want to incorporate.

Drawing Dream Gardens

5. Tell the students that they will each get to design their own dream garden for the school.

6. Explain a bird's eye view. If possible, show visuals of various birds eye views (e.g. basketball game, sports stadium, ship). Draw your garden space on the board from a bird's eye view. If your school already has a garden space, ask students to help fill in some existing things in the garden to help them understand the picture.

7. Distribute paper and colored pencils and let students start drawing their dream gardens. Encourage them to be creative and imaginative, paying attention not only to what's in the garden, but how it is arranged. Ask students to label their drawing (i.e., flower bed, tree, gate, pond). While students are drawing, circulate the room to help students generate ideas.

Sharing

8. Have students share their drawings with a partner when they are finished.

Extensions

- Collect data about the most and least popular features from the students' drawings. Use this data for grade level appropriate math (counting, graphing, percentage).
- Have the students write a narrative about what they have included in their garden design.
- Have the students write donation letters to local nurseries asking for garden supplies and plants.
- Host a night of charettes design with students, parents, community members and teachers.
- Post the dream gardens on a bulletin board to show the school your students' ideas.



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