



Brickyard Educational Farm

Elementary School In-class Presentation Activities:

Pg. 2) The Life of a Seed – Act out the life cycle from seed to plant to seed!

Pg. 3) Compost Stew: Composting with worms! – What is compost, and how is it made?

Pg. 5) What is a seed? – Learn which common foods are actually seeds!

Pg. 6) The Harvest Basket: Name that vegetable! – Use your senses to see what bountiful harvests came from Brickyard Educational Farm this season! (Great tactile and sensory activity for pre-k as well!)

Pg. 7) Life as a farmer! – Learn what being a farmer is actually like! (Great for career days!)

Pg. 8) Pricing

The Global Apple Lesson (Ask for/see attached lesson)- How much of the earth's surface can we plant crops on? (This is a favorite, and great visual for students of all grade levels)

To schedule a visit, or for more information, contact:

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The life of a Seed Activity

Duration: 15 minutes

Age: Pre-k-3d grade

Objective: To understand the basic growth pattern and life cycle of a plant from seed to seed.

Overview: Students will act out the life cycle of a plant from seed, that grows roots, then shoots, stem, leaves, flower, fruit and back to a seed to start the cycle over.

Activity description:

Students are asked to stand up and participate in acting out the life of a seed. Have students pretend they are a seed that has just been planted an inch underneath the soil on a spring day. To act this out students start in the fetal position and imagine fluffy soil covering their backs like a blanket. Then the spring rains come (make rain noises by drumming with hands) to wake up the seeds! First seeds press their roots, (palms and toes), into the ground and slurp (make slurping sounds) up the spring rainwater. After the seeds have grown roots to drink up the water, the seeds send up their first two small leaves to peak their heads above the soil. These first leaves, called cotyledons, soak up the sunlight. (Stand on knees and put two elbows out like a chicken to symbolize small leaves). Then the plants grow their stem a little bit taller to grow their first true leaves. (Stand all the way up and put arms out to the sides). Then plants grows a beautiful flower, (make circle with arms around face), and a bee buzzes along and pollinates the flowers. Then their flowers grow into big heavy fruits. (Bring hands down low and make a circle). The fruits gets so heavy and ripe that they drop from their vine and splits open on the ground. The seeds fall out, and replant themselves for next spring for the cycle to start over.

Repeat activity one or two more times with prompting, and ask students what happens next.

Compost Stew Activity (*Lesson inspired from Arcadia Institute for Sustainable Food and Agriculture*)

Duration: 25 minutes

Objective:

Overview: Students will learn the importance of compost as a form of fertilizer and a way to reduce waste. Through hands on experience of compost creation students learn how to discern what will decompose in a compost pile. Students will be able to explore BEF's worm composting bins, and learn how composting can reduce food waste, and fertilize soils in our communities.

Activity Description:

Today we are going to make compost. What is it for?:

- What is compost stew?
- Who is it food for? Compost stew is food for plants.
- Compost is great organic fertilizer for plants
- Compost needs air, water and FBI's (Fungi, bacteria, and invertebrates) to decompose.
- Anything that used to be alive can decompose. (That means we can put it in our compost cauldron).

Explore:

- Sit down around compost cauldron, trash and recycling receptacles
- Pass around finished compost for students to use their senses to investigate what finished compost stew looks like.
- Sort ingredients into respective receptacles
- Add water and finished compost to cauldron following compost stew recipe.
- Stir and cover with "magic" compost cloth. Recite compost chant.
- Uncover and observe the unfinished compost.
- Ask students why nothing happened, and what needs to happen for this to turn into compost.
- Take out worm bin and allow students to observe vermiculture compost.
- Ask students what worms are doing and eating
- Add a layer of food scraps to the compost "lasagna" pile and cover

Explain:

Students make hypotheses about why compost stew recipe did not work after the magic chant.

- Explain that time is essential for FBI's to decompose the ingredients.

- What invertebrates that you can pick up are important for making soil and compost?
- What are worms doing for us in the worm bin?
- Explain that Red Wigglers are a special kind of worm in our compost different from the common garden earth worm.
- How will the compost help the farm?

Elaborate:

- What kind of composting system would work best at your school or home considering in-door and outdoor space requirements, amount of available food scraps and other compostable materials?
- Where in our community could we find food that could be composted instead of thrown out?

What is a Seed? (Lesson written by Anna Benfield from Washington Youth Gardens)

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Objective: For students to identify parts of the plant, with an emphasis on seed identification.

Overview: Students will discern what is a seed from provided materials. They will come up with their own definition of seed at the end of the lesson to help reinforce what

Activity description:

Review the parts of a plant (the big five): roots, stem, leaf, flower, fruit, seed. What is a seed? Pass around a jar with almonds, corn kernels, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, an avocado pit, pecans, dandelion fluff, a small potato, and ask kids to separate out the seeds. Ask them to back explain their theories and hypothesis about which ones are seeds. Then let them know that you have tricked them, and they are all seeds! (The potato is actually a big seed! Ask them how they think that is possible. Given these are all seeds, have students think of their own definition for a seed.

The Harvest Basket- Name that Vegetable!

Duration: 15 minutes

Objective: Students will use their senses to identify the vegetable, the part of the plant, where its seed are, and compare how each plant reproduces itself.

Overview: Students will pass around a number of different vegetables such as heirloom winter squashed, cotton, wheat, corn, pole beans and dried chili peppers to identify the vegetable, review the part of the plant, and find the seeds.

Activity Description:

The harvest basket will vary season to season. Plants and vegetable will be passed around for students see, smell, listen and touch. Students will be asked: What vegetable is this? Where are its seeds? How does it reproduce? What part of the plant is it? How many more plants and seeds will this plant make next year?

Life As A Farmer!

Duration: 25 minutes

Objective: To have students inquire about a possible career in farming.

Overview: Farmer Sophia will give a description of daily activities as a small vegetable farmer, why farming is important, and answer student's questions about the pros and cons of farming.

Activity description:

First have designated students read off of pieces of paper to guess if farming is really Sophia's career: Writing a business plan; designing a marketing logo, calculating number to maximize crop yields, marketing and advertising products to customers, entering data into a spreadsheet, taking soil tests.

After reading each statement, ask the students what subject in school each activity falls into (Writing, Math, Science, Art). Then ask if they still think this person is a farmer. Explain those are some of the activities farmers engage in on a daily basis, and that farmers have to be well rounded in a lot of different subjects. Continue to describe a typical taking care of plants and animals, the pros and cons of being a farmer, and why it is an important career.

Pricing:

In-Class presentations and Assemblies:

Brickyard Educational Farm (BEF) charges a flat fee of \$50 per hour for in class presentations and assemblies, or \$5 per student for classes smaller than 10 students.

Organic Edible Garden Consultations:

BEF charges \$50 per hour for garden consulting. This includes scouting for potential garden site locations on school grounds, and advice on fertility, planting and garden type.

Professional Development for Teachers (and interested parents):

BEF charges \$150 for an in house, 2-hour professional development workshop for an unlimited number of parents and teachers. This workshop is for schools that want to use their outside gardens and green spaces as a teaching tool to supplement classroom lessons. The objective is for teachers from every subject to leave with ideas about how to weave outdoor, and garden-based, education into their lesson plans.

***We do have a scholarship fund, so please contact Sophia@BrickyardEducationalFarm.org for more information.**

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