



Brickyard Educational Farm

Field trip Outline

Overarching Goal:

The aim of the Brickyard Educational Farm field trip is to connect students with their food and organic farming practices that reinforce classroom concepts through guided, inquiry-based exploration. After rotating through three stations, students will learn the roles of plants, animals and organisms on the farm and how they are interdependent. This outdoor experience aims to cultivate students' environmental ethic, and how agriculture can have a positive impact on human health and the environment.

Enduring understandings:

Garden Station

- Organic farming and gardening methods use natural, biological practices to protect the environment and improve human health.
- A plant has six parts, which serve distinctive purposes, ultimately for plant reproduction.

Chicken Station

- Chickens and other domesticated animals are contributors to an organic farming system for their eggs, meat, soil preparation, pest control and manure.

Compost Station

- Organisms that used to be alive are able to decompose.
- Farmers use decomposed plant based matter in the form of compost as fertilizer.
- People can create compost piles and build vermiculture bins to reduce food waste and improve soil fertility.

Objectives:

Garden Station

- Students will be able to understand basic principles of organic farm and garden systems. (No synthetic chemical pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides)
- Students will connect with where their food comes from by planting or harvesting a vegetable.

Chicken Station

- Students will understand the various roles of chickens in a holistic, organic farming system.
- Students will be able to identify the parts of a chicken and their function.

Compost Station

- Students will learn what items will decompose in a compost pile.
- Students will be able to explain why we compost.

Engagement- Introduction circle:

- Have you been to a farm before?
- Have you ever harvest/planted before?
- Talk with teacher before hand touch on relevant prior material material
- Overview of today's field trip topics (set parameters)

Explore and Explain- Activity Stations:

Students participate in stations to comprehend farm systems. Students listen and hypothesize and problem solve to learn about the importance of sustaining life cycles.

- Garden
- Chicken
- Compost

Elaborate- Activity Stations and Reflection:

Students are able to extend their knowledge on plant parts and plant life cycle, decomposition and compost creation as fertility, and poultry's role in farm systems. Students will reflect, make connections and practice new vocabulary during the end of each station in addition to the closing circle.

Evaluation- Closing circle and classroom post assessment:

During closing circle students will be asked questions about the chicken, compost and garden stations to evaluate key objectives learned that day. Students share one aspect of the farm system that they would like to investigate further. Instructor prompts open-ended questions such as:

Essential Questions:

- What are the various roles of a chicken in farming system? (Why do farmers keep chickens?)
- What items will decompose in a compost pile?
- Why do we compost?
- What are the six plant parts?
- What do plants need to grow?
- How do plants reproduce? (What is the life cycle of a plant?)

- Do you think you would like to have a garden one day, have a compost bin in your classroom, or keep a flock of chickens?

Teachers will also be sent home with electronic or paper evaluations as a follow up activity for students to complete to measure their understanding of farming system objectives.