



## Brickyard Educational Farm

### **Harvest Station**

#### **Summary:**

Students will learn to harvest seasonal fruits, herbs and vegetables that will enforce their understanding of organic farming and gardening practices. At the end of the station, students will better understand a vegetable plant as a whole system and the roles the various parts play.

#### **Enduring Understandings:**

- 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 and survival.

#### **Objectives:**

- 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.

#### **Vocabulary:**

Root, stem, leaf, flower, fruit, seed, herbicide, pesticide, fertilizer, trowel, hoe, seedling, crop, mulch, weed, erosion, invasive species, harvest, seed tray

#### **Materials:**

Harvest basket  
Gloves

#### **Engage:**

Today we are going to practice some organic farming and gardening methods. Why do you think we are using organic methods?

- Have you ever planted something in the ground or harvested a crop?
- What does a plant need to grow?
- Introduce the students to the vegetable they will be harvesting or planting. Ask the students in what dishes they have had the vegetable.

#### **Explore:**

- Review the six plant parts.
- Have students lead you to the bed that is to be harvested by giving them hints about the crop.

- Describe the crop that students will be harvesting that day. Ask them: 'What does this crop look like when it is ripe or ready to harvest?'
- Demonstrate proper harvest and any washing procedures.
- Allow students to harvest and wash their vegetable.
- Explore the crop with all five senses: look at, touch, smell, listen to and taste the vegetable (with proper teacher approval).

**Explain:**

Ask students to describe what the plant that they harvested looked, smelled, felt, sounded and tasted like.

- Was it above ground or below ground?
- Ask them to hypothesize what plant part they harvested.
- What function does that plant part serve?
- Have you eaten this vegetable from the store? How does it compare to the one you ate today?

**Elaborate:**

- Ask the students to think of a recipe idea that they could make at home using the garden harvest.
- How could you grow this plant at home?
- How do you think eating a plant from the garden versus a plant from California might benefit the environment?

**Evaluate:**

Ask students at the end of the station:

- Where does food come from?
- What makes this farm organic?
- Why should we care about growing organic gardens and farms?
- What are the six plant parts? Can you name one of each that we eat?

**Prepare students for the next station:**

Find a leaf, fruit or vegetable to bring to the next station.