



## Brickyard Educational Farm

### **Planting Station**

#### **Summary:**

Students will learn to plant seasonal fruits, herbs and vegetables that will enforce their understanding of organic farming and gardening practices. This hands-on experience allows students to use appropriate farm tools to carry out the activity. At the end of the station students will reflect on the organic methods they used, and the environmental impact they have.

#### **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:**

Trowels  
Shovels  
Seedlings to transplant (two per student) or seeds  
Gloves  
Bug boxes  
Magnifying glasses  
Organic fertilizer (Compost, fish emulsion, etc.)  
Straw mulch

#### **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.
- If transplanting, dunk plants in organic fish emulsion fertilizer.
- Lead students to prepared garden bed.
- Have students lay out measuring tape, and line up with trowels
- Demonstrate how to dig a trench or hole to plant seed or transplant.
- Have students measure correct depth and spacing
- Plant seeds or transplants, then cover with soil.
- Have students water seeds or plants with a watering can, and mulch if necessary.

**Explain:**

Have students reflect and hypothesize about their planting activities by having them answer the following questions:

- Why did we mulch the plants? How is that keeping top soil in place?
- Why did we dunk the plants in fish emulsion? What is the benefit to organic fertilizers?
- What part of the plant did we plant?
- What function does that plant part serve?

**Elaborate:**

- Would this crop survive if we had planted it at another time of year?
- How could you grow this plant at home?
- How does eating food from your garden verses food from California benefit the environment?

**Evaluate:**

Ask students at the end of the station:

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

**Prepare students for the next station:**

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