Rock Your Classroom with Plant Fun!

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Why plant-based education?

- Plant blindness/Ag illiteracy
- Meets content and performance/skill goals in all subjects
- Gets students involved, active, THINKING
- More likely to get students to try fruits/vegetables
- More chances to get community involved with school
- Use of outdoor classroom space
- Therapeutic for all – stress, mental health, inclusion
School/Community Gardens – 300+ year history

- Originally to teach students to appreciate nature (17th c.)
- 1840 – German “kindergarten” (kinder = children) developed preschoolers’ intelligence through nature study
- 1890’s – U.S. school gardening stimulates curiosity and enthusiasm, connects students to rural roots, helps immigrant children assimilate, develop moral intelligence (such as cooperation, self-confidence), acquire vocational skills
- By 1906 there were over 75,000 U.S. school gardens
Observation skills
Math Skills

![Image of a plant map]

![Image of a plate with snack]

![Image of children engaged in math activity]

![Image of a vegetable garden]

![Image of a table with a spreadsheet]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Almond</th>
<th>Brazil Nut</th>
<th>Hazelnut</th>
<th>Pecan</th>
<th>Walnut</th>
<th>Peach Pit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
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<td>40</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Language & Performing Arts
Science

endocarp
Hard inner layer of a coconut that contains the seed and “meat.”

The minute embryo is embedded within the endosperm just inside the germination pore.

coconut “apple”
A sweet, spongy mass (cotyledon) that dissolves & absorbs the endosperm.

coat (outer layer)

exocarp

mesocarp (fibrous husk)

root

endocarp (surrounding seed)

shoot (stem & leaves)

endocarp

functional pore

plugged pore

plugged pore
Art/Music
Bean Sorting Map

- Classification skills
- Uses 15-bean soup mix
- Use as example before having students create dichotomous keys
Soil introduction

Modified “Red Rover” game
Parts of the Plant

• ROOTS
• STEMS
• LEAVES
• FLOWERS
• FRUIT
• SEEDS
• Sing it!
Grow fun plants
No space? No problem.
No $$$ ? Get creative.
“If we really want new learning to ‘stick,’ students must be doing. Real learning is not a spectator sport.”

- Kendell Dorsey, Principal at Winton Woods Elementary School in Cincinnati, OH

Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.

- Henry van Dyke

Anne Nessa
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