



BIG GREEN LESSONS

Learning Garden Tour: Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Lesson Outcomes

- Students will participate in a sensory walk to encourage observations and listening skills.
- Students will be able to identify their five senses.
- Students will interact with the Learning Garden including plants and soil.
- Students will be excited to further explore the Learning Garden.

Standard Alignment

Next Generation Science Standards

- K.SL.1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
- 2.LS.4.1: Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Common Core – Math

- K.CC.4: Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.

Common Core – English Language Arts

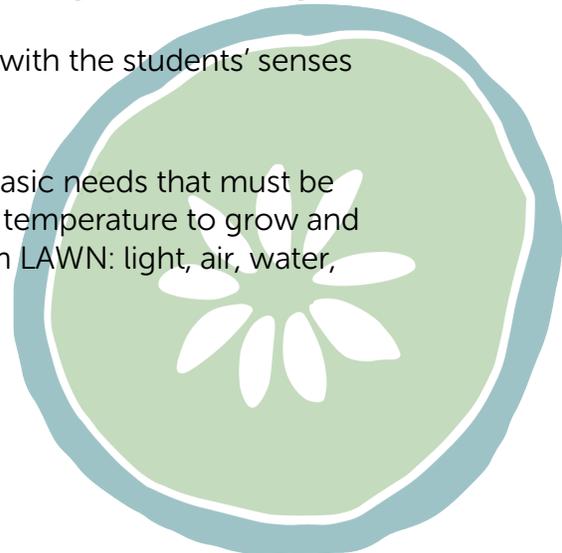
- K.SL.6: Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- 1.SL.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- 1.SL.6: Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.
- 1.SL.4: Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.
- 2.SL.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

Materials & Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the Learning Garden and what is growing
- Familiarize yourself with the basics of what plants need to grow - LAWN (light, air, water, nutrients)
- Identify plants, textures, sounds, etc. that will engage with the students' senses

Teacher Background

In order to survive and thrive plants, just like humans, have basic needs that must be met. All plants need food, water, a place to live, and optimal temperature to grow and reproduce. These needs can be summarized by the acronym LAWN: light, air, water, and nutrients.



Introduction (5 minutes)

Invite students to gather together in the Learning Garden. Ask them the following questions:

- What is nature?
- What does it mean to observe?
- What types of things might we find on a walk around our garden?

Explain that today we are going to use our senses to explore the Learning Garden. Review the 5 senses as needed. Review any additional rules to the Learning Garden. Query students about known bee/wasp sting allergies before going into the field.

Garden Activity (15 minutes)

SEE: Walk with your group and surround one garden bed. Ask students to silently explore what is in front of them using their eyes for 15 seconds. Review the following questions:

1. Who can tell me what colors we see in the garden?
2. How many plants do we see growing in the garden?
3. What are some ideas of what is growing in front of us?

HEAR: Walk to the next garden bed and have students circle around the bed. Ask students to silently explore what is in front of them using their ears by closing their eyes and listening for 15 seconds. Discuss the following:

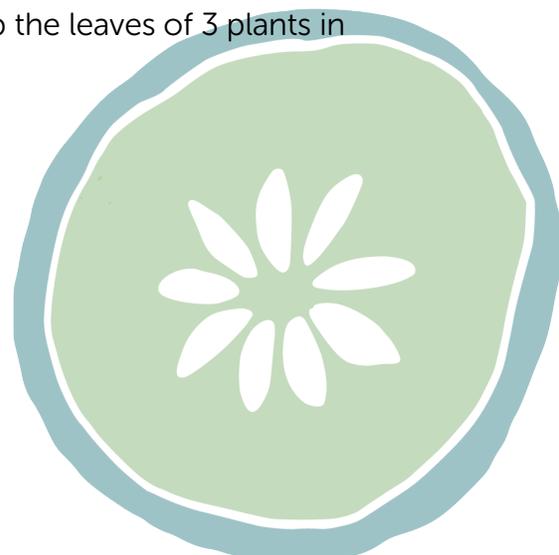
1. Who can tell me something loud that they heard?
2. Who can tell me something quiet that they heard?
3. What would be some good sounds we would like to hear in our garden? (Bees, birds, wind, etc.)

FEEL: Walk to the next bed and circle around this bed. Ask your students what it means to be gentle and have them gently touch 3 things in front of them (plants, soil, garden bed, etc.). Review the following questions:

1. Who felt something soft?
2. Who felt something rough?
3. Who can tell me something else they felt?

SMELL: Walk to your herb garden. Teach your students how to rub the leaf and smell the scent on their fingers. Have your students very gently rub the leaves of 3 plants in front of them. Discuss the following:

1. Who smelled something sweet?
2. Who smelled something strong?
3. Can someone explain what they smelled?



Conclusion (5 minutes)

To finish up, create a circle in an open area away from the Learning Garden. Recap with students that they all used their eyes to see, noses to smell, fingers to feel, and ears to listen.

Ask students: What is the 5th sense that we did not use in the garden today?

Discuss with the students why we didn't use our sense of taste today. From time to time, students will be invited to taste things from the Learning Garden, but students should never taste or eat anything from the Learning Garden without their teacher's permission.

Ask students: What are you looking forward to eating from our garden?

