

## Garden Calendar Intro

**Grade Level:** 2

**Season:** Fall/Winter

**Larger IGS Unit:** Farms/Gardens

**Essential Question:** How do we plan a garden? When do our plants grow?

**Objective:** Students will be able to label months according to the actions that we take in the garden. Students will be able to number the days in the month. Students will understand the growing cycle.

**Materials:**

12 blank calendar months and a cover page bound for each student

Writing utensils

Larger calendar for display

Farmers Almanac (optional)

**Introduction:**

As we approach the end of the year, we are now thinking ahead to next year.

- a. Ask students what happens after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>
- b. What year will it be? How many months are in the year? How many days?

We work together all year long – in the garden, in the greenhouse – and there are so many different types of things we do together. We are going to make a list together of the different *verbs* or actions we take in the garden/greenhouse throughout the year. You will be using these verbs to create descriptions of each month. These will be part of the illustrations for each month, which you will do at the end.

**Activity 1: Garden Pantomime (30 mins)**

To make this list, we will be doing a pantomime: a student will come to the center of the room to act out something we do in the garden.

Raise your hand if you think you know what action they are acting out. Whoever guesses, they will get to act out the next action (or choose someone else in the class). Teacher can scribe the different actions students name on a notepad, to keep for future reference for students.

**Activity 2: Garden Calendar (30 mins)**

1. Students label the months
2. Students write in all the numbers of days of each month. To do this, it is helpful to write on the board the information for each month (ie January has 31 days, and starts on a Monday)

3. Students draft full sentences about something we do together during that month in the garden/greenhouse using list of garden verbs on a separate piece of paper.
4. On the top page of each month, students write their full sentences.
5. Students illustrate that garden activity.

**Wrap up/ Assessment:**

Students write full sentences using garden verbs for each month.

Students demonstrate the steps to making our garden calendar, and the importance of the garden calendar.

**Extensions:**

Throughout the year, students will keep track of when we plant, transplant, harvest, etc. This is a great wrap-up activity after students have completed a task in the garden or greenhouse. This can also be an independent activity students may work on throughout the school year.

Students make create a key for different tasks that repeat (ie “harvest”, “plant”, etc.) Students may use the Farmers Almanac to include other elements, including moon phases, holidays, etc.

Students will take the calendars home at the end of the year. They are encouraged to use these calendars as a guide to know what is happening in the garden during the summer months, and to visit the garden to harvest their crops at the appropriate times.