

Seeds Introduction

Grade: 2nd grade

Season: Fall

Larger IGS Unit: Seeds

Essential/Topical Questions:

- Where do seeds come from?
- Why is seed saving important?
- What happens to a garden during the fall?
- How do we know when a plant is ready to be harvested?
- What are the stages of a plant life cycle?

Lesson Plan

Part 1: Harvesting from garden

Students work in pairs to observe the school garden. They write down what they are noticing (colors, insects, plants) and make a list of the plants they are harvesting using the “What do you see in the garden?” worksheet. Some crops may be tasted, others are saved for further exploration. Students share their discoveries together at the end of class.

Part 2: Seed exploration

“Where do seeds come from?” Brainstorm together with students.

Review the list of crops the students harvested. “Do all of these plants have seeds?”

Let’s start with the tomato:

Students work in pairs to dissect their tomato (all different types and stages of maturity: small, large, red, green and orange).

- Discuss as a group why some tomatoes have seeds and why others may not.

(They only produce seeds at the end of their life cycle)

What about some of these other crops?

- Pepper (fruit)
- Sunflower (flower)
- Corn (grain)
- Garlic (root)
- Lettuce (leaf)

Students work in groups/pairs and try to find out where their seed is. Then they introduce their crop to the group:

- Name of crop and location of seed

Part 3: Garlic preparation

We are going to focus on one of these crops: garlic. Where did this garlic come from? How did it grow? What do we know about garlic? Where is its seed?

Students look at the different types of garlic and discuss differences between them.
There are so many different types of garlic!
Break apart the cloves and put them in the bucket. We will plant these next class!

Part 4: Garlic planting (see lesson plan)

Part 5: Seed saving

Why is it important to save seeds? Brainstorm with students.

Students make seed packets using origami methods. Seeds are kept with teacher until the spring, when they will be ready to plant.

Extensions:

Seed-Root-Flower-Fruit game