

Basic Stone Soup field trip

Island Grown Schools, fall 2010

This is a great fall field trip. It incorporates literature, reading comprehension, and service learning, and has lots of activities that can link up to it and expand on it, from math to music. It's fun to do this field trip later on in the fall when pickings are slimmer in the fields.

You'll need at least an hour and a half for this field trip.

Materials:

- A bell/gong/noisemaker
- A nice rock
- A big soup pot
- Laminated cards with pictures of vegetables on them.

Advance work:

- The day before the field trip, go and see what's still in the field. Use this knowledge to choose which laminated cards you'll need, based on what will be gleaned.
- If you aren't planning to make the soup with the class, prepare a pot of soup to bring to the farm kitchen or classroom.
- If you're working with middle school aged students and above, read them the Stone Soup story before the field trip and talk about gleaning, soup kitchens, and ways to be of service to and help feed those in need.

Field trip plan

1. Begin by sitting everyone down together, either in the classroom or in an indoor or outdoor space at the farm with seating, to welcome them and go over expectations for the day.

- Welcome
- Review the key question and take home message for the day: generally on this one you can focus on hunger. Do people have enough to eat? If we work together, we can feed each other.
- Expectations: we don't run, we watch our feet to make sure we're not stepping in the rows of crops, we don't touch animals without checking with an adult first, etc.

2. Next, it's time to do observation. Bring a bell or gong or noisemaker out into the field with you.

- Walk through the fields and ask students to shout out what vegetables they see that they recognize.
- Encourage teachers to disperse with the kids and shout out things they see that kids might not know or recognize.
- Ring the bell and gather everyone together again.
- Ask everyone what they saw. Then go around in a circle and ask them to name their favorite vegetable (if they name a fruit that's okay). Ask, is there a lot of food here?

3. Introduce the soup pot

- Ask, "Have you ever felt hungry?"
- Soup is something that can feed a lot of people.
- Then bring out an empty soup pot, and say that together we're going to make a big soup.
- Pull out your rock. "The first ingredient for our soup is this rock," and set it into the pot. No need to explain at this point.
- Now we're all going to go out and gather the other ingredients for our soup.
- Give each child a laminated picture of a vegetable that you know is in the field.

- “With one hand, you’ll pick the vegetable on your card from the field. With the other hand, you can pick whatever you want.”

4. Scavenger hunt!

- Now send everyone out to glean!
- Bring the pot outside, and let everyone know that when they’ve gathered what they need to come back and put their vegetables into the pot. (If they end up with a pumpkin or something else large that doesn’t fit in the pot, you can put it to the side of the pot.)

5. Head into the kitchen

- If you’ve already prepared the soup, let the kids know “The last group of students picked the veggies in this soup for us, and our vegetables will feed the next group of students.” If you’ll prepare the soup with the kids, chop veggies, heat stock, make soup.
- Serve the soup. If you’re with a group of pre-schoolers, kindergarteners, or 1st graders, read Stone Soup while they eat.