

## The Lorax: Marigold Planting

**Grade Level:** K

**Season:** Spring

**Larger IGS Unit:** Seeds

**Essential Question:** What do living things need to survive and grow? Why is it important to plant seeds and grow plants in the garden?

**Objective:** Students will understand what plants need to grow. Students will understand the importance of taking care of the earth, through the story of the Lorax. Students will take part in the process themselves, by planting marigolds (aka “Truffula Trees”) and taking care of them in the garden. They will also bring home marigolds to share with their family, and share the story of the Lorax.

**Materials:**

The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss

Seeding trays

2” seedling pots (3 per student)

Potting soil

Seeds (African Marigolds)

Watering cans

Labels

Permanent Markers

**Introduction:**

Ask students to raise their hands if they know about Dr. Seuss.

Introduce the Lorax, and read the story.

After the story, ask students:

- Who was the Lorax? Why was he upset with the Once-ler?
- What was the Once-ler doing to the Truffula trees?
- Were there other living things that the Once-ler was harming?
- What did the land look like after the Once-ler was finished making his Thneeds? Was he helping or harming the earth by making his Thneeds?
- What did the Once-ler give the boy at the end of the story? What can he do with that seed?
- How does planting Truffula trees help make the earth a better place?

**Activity:**

Ask students to raise their hand if they care about the earth. What are some things we could do to take care of the earth?

Hand out a marigold seed to each student. Ask students if they recognize this seed (from the planting experiment). Guide students through an exploration of the seed to figure out what kind of seed it is.

Explain that with this seed, the students are going to do just what the Lorax had asked – to plant Truffula trees and make the world a better place. Clarify with the students that these are marigolds, but that they look just like Truffula trees. Explain that the marigolds, just like the Truffula trees, help to make the world a better place by bringing insects into the garden, cleaning the air, and helping other plants grow.

Ask students to describe how to plant a marigold seed, and what it needs to grow. Give each student three seedling pots. Students scoop soil into their seedling pots, then make holes with their fingers, just big enough for their seeds. Students place their seeds in the holes, and cover them up. Finally, students water their pots and place them in the trays.

**Wrap up/ Assessment:**

Explain that these plants are not only for us, but for the garden and for our families. We are going to need to work hard to care for these plants!

Ask students, what do we need to do to make sure these plants are happy and healthy? What else can we do to make the world a better place?

**Extensions:**

The Lorax Worksheet

Observations, measuring

Marigolds for Mother's Day/Earth Day with cards