



## Theme: Plants (Grades 9-12)

### Post-Visit Activity #2 School Garden

#### Overview:

The students will learn about native plants in order to create a school garden. Working in groups, students will create a garden using what they have learned from this research and their trip to the Springs Preserve.

#### Objectives:

- Students will identify and understand what is required for plant survival in the Mojave Desert.
- Students will work in groups to plan a school garden.

#### Materials:

- Copy of plant lists (1 list per group)
- Pictures of plants on plant lists
- Paper
- Colored pencils
- *Nevada Gardener's Guide (revised edition)* by Linn Mills and Dick Post
- Other books about Mojave Desert plants and planning a garden
- Access to the internet

#### Activity:

1. Divide the students into four groups and give each group a different list of plants.
2. Students will research the plants on their list, gathering information about when the plant blooms, what it needs to survive, the height it grows to, the amount of water it needs for survival, and any other information that may be required when creating a school garden.
3. Remind students what the gardens at the Springs Preserve focuses on: height, color and texture.
4. In groups, students will select a minimum of ten plants from their list to place in their garden.
5. Students should create a theme and a name for their garden, along with images of the plants.
6. Designate an area outside where the garden will be.

7. Give the students the exact measurements of the plot of land and the location.
8. Students need to consider water sources and sunlight when selecting what plants should be in the garden.
9. Groups will design their gardens on paper and present them to the class.
10. If possible, purchase seeds or plants to create a school garden. You may choose to have the class select one group's design to create, divide the plot evenly between the groups, or have the groups work together to create one garden that combines the designs of all groups.
11. If you intend to plant the school garden, obtain permission from the appropriate school administrators and custodians before beginning. Another option is to create a container garden, planting individual plants in pots or other containers.

**List 1**

<p><b><u>Annuals:</u></b>  Ageratum (<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>)  Calendula (<i>Calendula officinalis</i>)  Cosmos (<i>Cosmos species</i>)  Flowering Cale and Cabbage (<i>Brassica oleracea acephala</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Cactuses:</u></b>  Beavertail Cactus (<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>)  Golden Barrel Cactus (<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i>)  Desert Spoon (<i>Dasyilirion wheeleri</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Perennials:</u></b>  Basket-of-Gold (<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>)  Black-Eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia sp.</i>)  Blanket Flower (<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>)  Bleeding Heart (<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Bulbs:</u></b>  Bearded Iris (<i>Iris germanica</i>)  Canna Lily (<i>Canna x generalis</i>)  Crocus (<i>Crocus sp.</i>)  Daffodil (<i>Narcissus x hybrids</i>)  Tulip (<i>Tulipa sp.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Roses:</u></b>  Climbing Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)  Floribunda Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)</p>	<p><b><u>Vines:</u></b>  Cat’s Claw Vine (<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>)  Chinese Wisteria (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>)  Clematis (<i>Clematis x jackmanii</i>)</p>

**List 2**

<p><b><u>Annuals:</u></b>  Gazzania (<i>Gazania sp.</i>)  Geranium (<i>Pelargonium hortorum</i>)  Impatiens (<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>)  Lobelia (<i>Lobelia erinus</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Cactuses:</u></b>  Beavertail Cactus (<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>)  Golden Barrel Cactus (<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i>)  Desert Spoon (<i>Dasyilirion wheeleri</i>)  Red Yucca (<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Perennials:</u></b>  Brittlebush (<i>Encelia farinosa</i>)  Candytuft (<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>)  Coral Bells (<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>)  Daylily (<i>Hemerocallis x hybrids</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Bulbs:</u></b>  Bearded Iris (<i>Iris germanica</i>)  Canna Lily (<i>Canna x generalis</i>)  Crocus (<i>Crocus sp.</i>)  Daffodil (<i>Narcissus x hybrids</i>)  Tulip (<i>Tulipa sp.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Roses:</u></b>  Hybrid Tea Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)  Miniature Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)</p>	<p><b><u>Vines:</u></b>  Lilac Vine (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)  Creeping Fig (<i>Ficus pumila</i>)  Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenoncissus quinquefolia</i>)</p>

**List 3**

<p><b><u>Annuals:</u></b>          Marigold (<i>Tagetes species</i>)          Moss Rose (<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>)          Nasturtium (<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>)          Pansy (<i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Cactuses:</u></b>          Beavertail Cactus (<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>)          Golden Barrel Cactus (<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i>)          Desert Spoon (<i>Dasyilirion wheeleri</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Perennials:</u></b>          Desert Marigold (<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>)          Dusty Miller (<i>Centaurea cineraria</i>)          Gaura (<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>)          Hollyhock (<i>Alcea rosea</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Bulbs:</u></b>          Bearded Iris (<i>Iris germanica</i>)          Canna Lily (<i>Canna x generalis</i>)          Crocus (<i>Crocus sp.</i>)          Daffodil (<i>Narcissus x hybrids</i>)          Tulip (<i>Tulipa sp.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Roses:</u></b>          Hybrid Tea Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)          Miniature Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)</p>	<p><b><u>Vines:</u></b>          Lilac Vine (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)          Creeping Fig (<i>Ficus pumila</i>)          Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)</p>

**List 4**

<p><b><u>Annuals:</u></b>          Petunia (<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>)          Phlox (<i>Ohlox drummondii</i>)          Salvia (<i>Salvia splendens</i>)          Snapdragon (<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Cactuses:</u></b>          Beavertail Cactus (<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>)          Golden Barrel Cactus (<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i>)          Desert Spoon (<i>Dasyilirion wheeleri</i>)          Red Yucca (<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Perennials:</u></b>          Penstemon (<i>Penstemon species</i>)          Peony (<i>Paeonia hybrids</i>)          Sagebrush (<i>Artemisia sp.</i>)          Soapwort (<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Bulbs:</u></b>          Bearded Iris (<i>Iris germanica</i>)          Canna Lily (<i>Canna x generalis</i>)          Crocus (<i>Crocus sp.</i>)          Daffodil (<i>Narcissus x hybrids</i>)          Tulip (<i>Tulipa sp.</i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Roses:</u></b>          Hybrid Tea Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)          Miniature Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i> and hybrids)</p>	<p><b><u>Vines:</u></b>          Lilac Vine (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)          Creeping Fig (<i>Ficus pumila</i>)          Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)</p>