



Theme: Plants (Grades K-2)

Post-Visit Activity #2 Seeing is Believing!

Overview:

After visiting the gardens at the Springs Preserve, students will have an understanding about desert landscaping and what makes a garden beautiful. They will use what they learned to create a garden for the classroom.

Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of desert landscaping.
- Students will learn the importance of water conservation.
- Students will select plants for a classroom container garden

Materials:

- Pictures of 10 native plants
- 5 different size pots
- Seeds of each of the native plants
- 5 baggies of soil to fill the pot
- Newspaper

Activity:

1. Review the elements of the Springs Preserve gardens – color, varying types of plants, varying heights of plants and varying textures.
2. Show pictures of ten native desert plants.
3. As a whole group, decide on five plants that would look good together, based on color, size and texture.
4. Divide the class into five groups and assign each group a seed to plant.
5. Make sure their work area is covered with newspaper.
6. Provide each group with a pot and a bag of soil.
7. Instruct the students to pour the soil into the pot, leaving a little soil to cover the seed once it is planted.
8. Place a few seeds in the soil at the top of the pot (not too deep), cover the seeds with the remaining soil.
9. Remind them of the four elements needed to grow plants – soil, air, light and water.

10. Each group needs to designate a weekly leader to make sure that the plant is receiving what it needs.
11. You may choose to have the students journal weekly about their observations.
12. When the plants are big enough, you may choose to plant them outside on school grounds. During recess or other outdoor time, students can visit the plants to see how they are doing.

Suggested Reading List:

1. ***Counting in the Garden*** by Kim Parker. A colorful way to count to ten with pictures of creatures in the garden.
2. ***Good Morning, Garden*** by Barbara Brenner. A simplistic and tranquil greeting to each new day, celebrating nature with rhymes and beautiful illustrations.
3. ***In the Garden: Who's Been Here?*** by Lindsay Barrett George. Christina and Jeremy find evidence of many different animals as they gather vegetables in their garden.
4. ***Little Green*** by Keith Baker. A young boy watches a hummingbird travel from his window, appreciating the nature that he sees.
5. ***Mrs. Spitzer's Garden*** by Edith Pattou. Readers get an informative look at what plants need to grow as Mrs. Spitzer tends to her garden.
6. ***One Little Seed*** by Elaine Greenstein. A very simple look at the cycle of nature as one seed is planted and grown, and another seed is picked.
7. ***Planting a Rainbow*** by Lois Ehlert. A mother and child plant a garden with many different colors, creating a rainbow before their eyes.