Introduction to the Garden

Description
Students will explore the garden and establish garden agreements for the year.

Guiding Question
How do we interact with each other and other living things in the garden?

Big Idea
The Garden is Diverse and Living.

Learning Objective:
⇒ Students will learn about the diversity of plants living in the garden through the five senses

Materials:
☐ Large paper pad to write garden agreements
☐ Paint chips or worksheet
☐ Clipboards & pencils for worksheet
☐ Five Senses poster

Engage (5 mins)
Walk and Talk: Have students make two lines and talk to partner: What they will see in the garden? OR Have them take 1–2 minutes in the garden to talk to partner about this question.

Garden Name Game (10 mins)
Have students choose a plant that grows in the garden to attach to their names. Give students 1 min to decide. One student starts by saying their garden name to the circle. The whole group repeats their name in unison. (If the game is taking too long have five students say their names; then have the whole class repeat names together).

3rd -5th grade: Suggest that students use alliteration in their garden names
Optional: Volunteer can record names to make nametags in the future.

Agreements and Expectations (5 mins)
Teacher asks students for guidelines and agreements that everyone will follow when working in the garden. Teacher records students’ agreements. Suggest missing agreements.
⇒ Ex. Respect all living things, Walk on paths - not on plants, Use tools safely, Harvest with permission, etc…

Explore: Garden Scavenger Hunt (15 mins)
Now that we have agreed how we are going to behave in the garden it is time to go exploring. Review five senses and explain students are always observational scientists in the garden. Present scavenger hunt of choice

K-2nd grade: Pass out 1-2 paint chips to each child. Students explore what is in the garden by matching their color paint chip to something in the garden. Explain they can only pick it if there are more than five
In a patch of five flowers, a student can pick one or just a petal/ A patch of four flowers we do not pick.

**3rd-5th grade:** Hand out garden scavenger hunt worksheet (Appendix A) with clipboards and pencils for students to fill in with examples from the garden. Have students do activity quietly for five minutes to use their senses fully, then they may talk and ask questions.

**Evaluate (10 mins)**

Regroup at original circle; students volunteer to share what they observed in the garden.

**Exit Ticket:** Each child whispers one thing that they can find in the garden to their teacher as they leave the garden.

**Extension**

Read Aloud: *The Vegetables We Eat* by Gail Gibbons

**Mystery Vegetable:** Students each get a card with a picture of a vegetable pinned to their backs with clothes pins. Make sure the students have not seen what vegetable they are. One student will go at a time, asking questions to get hints about what they are to the rest of the group. The group will answer questions until enough hints are given so that the student guesses correctly. Questions that can be asked for vegetables are; “What color am I?”, “What are some dishes that I am used in?”, “What size am I?” A trickier variation for older students is to require them to ask yes or no questions about themselves to discover their vegetable.

**Curriculum Connections**

- Science 2.LS4.1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats
- ELA K/1.W.8 With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question
- ELA 1.L.5.a Sort words into categories to gain a sense of the concepts those categories represent
- ELA Literacy.W.4/5.3d Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely
- ELA Literacy.L.K.5.C-L.3.5.B Identify real-life connections between words and their use
Garden Scavenger Hunt

1. Find a purple plant growing in the garden.
   Name ___________

2. Find a plant with berries on it.
   Name ___________

3. Can you find an insect or animal?
   Name ___________

4. Find a soft plant in the garden.
   Name ___________

5. Find a dead plant in the garden.
   Name ___________

5. Find a plant that we eat the leaves of:
   Name ___________

6. Find a plant that we eat the roots of:
   Name ___________

7. Find a plant you do not know. Draw a picture on the back.
Garden Classroom Rules

- Respect All Living Things
- Walk on paths, not on plants
- Use tools safely
- Harvest with Permission
- Be open and have fun!
Appendix C

Observation using the 5 senses:

- SIGHT
- TASTE
- SMELL
- TOUCH
- HEARING