



Lesson Plan In the Garden of Readin'

This lesson plan works very well with children preschool through second grade. The lesson lasts between 45 minutes to an hour, based on the number of books read. To orient the children to what it means to be a scientist, think scientifically and "do science," use the **"A Scientist Is. . ." and "Scientific Method"** handouts available at the end of this lesson plan.

SING

Begin with your favorite welcome song.

SCIENCE CHAT

Begin a theme on gardening at circle time by freestyle asking the children what they know about it. Let them brainstorm ideas and be sure to encourage their participation.

SOME FACTS ABOUT PLANTS

What do we need for the plants to grow? Water, sun, soil, light

Parts of a plant Show pictures included in 3-page guide at the end of this outline

What kinds of food do you eat that comes from a garden? Give examples. Compare parts of plants that are food – see 3-page guide

READ

Suggestions from the Wisconsin Water Librarians, but feel free to swap out with your own OR visit our **subject specific reading list: [Gardening](#)**.

READ: [My Garden \(2010\)](#) by Kevin Henkes (Wisconsin author!)

READ: [It's Our Garden: From Seeds to Harvest in a School \(2013\)](#) Garden by George Ancona

(This is a longer, non-fiction book. With younger students you might want to show photographs, give examples of the benefits of a community garden, and give an overview of the school garden project shown in the book)

READ: [A Seed is Sleepy \(2007\)](#) by Dianna Hutts Aston illus. by Sylvia Long

READ: [Secrets of the Garden \(2012\): Food Chains and the Food Web in Our Backyard](#) by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld illus. by Priscilla Lamont

READ: [Planting the Wild Garden \(2011\)](#) by Kathryn O. Galbraith illus. by Wendy Anderson Halperin

SING

Use any song you like adapted to the theme of gardening. Here are two suggestions:

"We Are Gardeners"

(To the tune of Farmer in the Dell)

The farmer sows his seeds.
The farmer sows his seeds.
Hi Ho the dairy-o,
The farmer sows his seeds.

other verses:

The rain begins to fall...
The sun begins to shine...
The seeds begin to grow...
The plants grow big and tall...
The farmer cuts his corn...
And now the harvest is on...

"Dig, Dig, Dig the Earth"

(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row your boat")

Dig, dig, dig the earth
(make digging motion)
Then you plant your seeds
(pretend to drop seeds)
A gentle rain
(Flutter fingers down)
And bright sunshine
(Circle arms above head)
Will help your flowers grow
(Hold one arm parallel to ground and move
other arm up behind it with
fingers extended to represent a flower growing)

For more information, please contact:

Wisconsin Water Library | Phone: (608) 262-3069 | Email: askwater@aqu.wisc.edu

CRAFT IDEA: Grow Grass in an Eggshell



Supplies needed:

Eggs, 1 for each child plus some spares
Egg Carton(s)
Grass Seed
Soil
Markers and Scissors

How To:

- Carefully remove the tops of the eggshells. Reserve egg whites and yolks for omelets or something else.
- Gently clean out the eggshells with warm, soapy water.
- Fill the eggshell with about $\frac{3}{4}$ to the top with soil. Sprinkle in some grass seed. Add a tiny bit of additional soil.
- Gently wash away loose soil and other debris from the egg shell.
- Allow children to add a face to the shell with markers, so the grass looks like hair, if desired.
- Have the children put their grass eggshells into the carton and put the carton in a place where the grass seed can receive ample sun. Let the children be responsible for spraying the eggshells with water, etc.
- Allow the children to trim the grass "hair" from their eggs as the grass sprouts.

Project taken from:

<http://2cupsofcoffee.blogspot.com/2009/03/meet-egg-people-growing-grass-inside.html>

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PARTS OF A PLANT (3 pages)

PARTS OF A PLANT

ROOTS	SEEDS	FRUITS
carrots beets	lima beans peas green beans sunflower seeds	tomato apple peach blueberries
FLOWERS	LEAVES	STEMS
broccoli cauliflower	lettuce spinach cabbage mustard	celery onions

THE ROOT (or bulb) is the part of the plant that grows in the ground. It anchors the plant in the soil and absorbs water and minerals. Some roots that we can eat are: onions, potatoes, and carrots.

THE STEM – is the part of the plant that transports water and nutrients to the rest of the plant. The stem holds up the rest of the plant. Some stems that we can eat are: celery and asparagus.

THE LEAVES – are the parts of the plant that collect sunlight and turn it into food for the plant. Some leaves of plants that we can eat are: lettuce, spinach and cabbage.

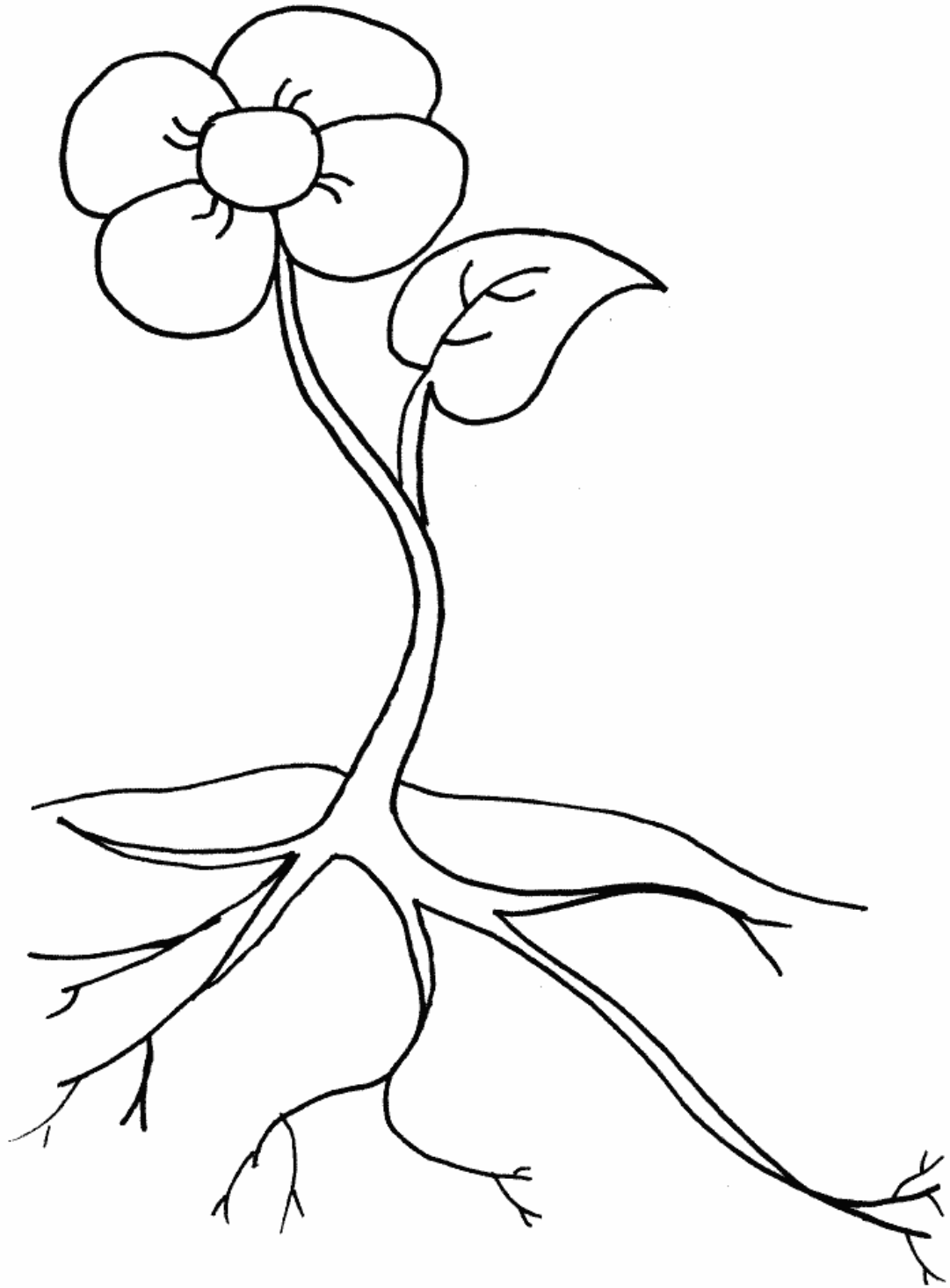
THE FLOWERS – are the parts of the plants that produce the seeds for future plants. Some flowers of plants that we can eat are: broccoli and cauliflower.

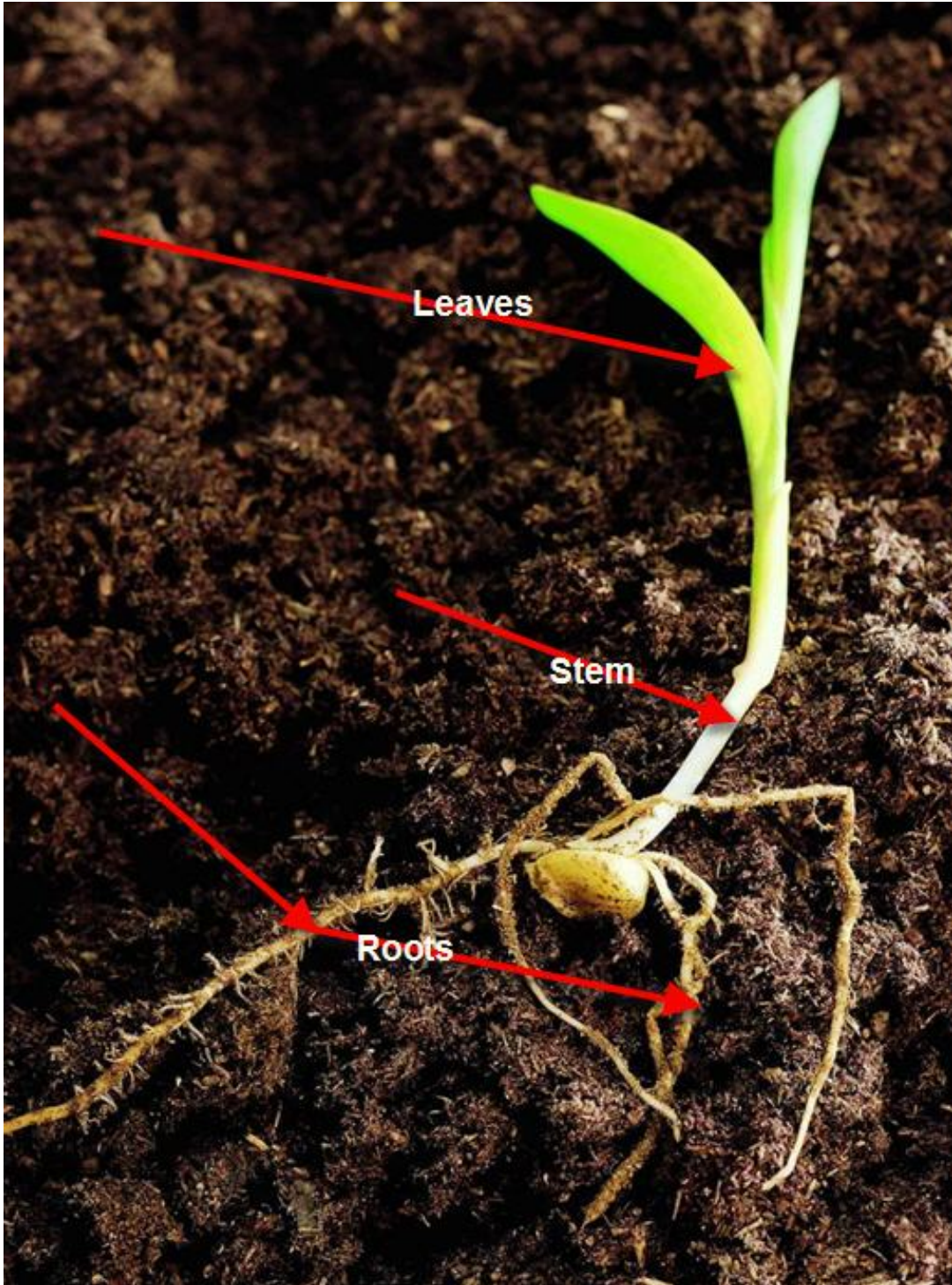
THE FRUIT – The fruit of the plant, grows to protect the seeds of the flower when it has been pollinated. Some fruits of plants that we eat are: tomatoes, apples, oranges, bananas and pumpkins.

THE SEEDS – are the parts of the plant, that after the fruit ripens, fall to the ground and eventually grow into new plants. Some seeds of plants that we eat are: peas, corn, beans, nuts and grains (such as wheat, barley, oats, etc.)

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A SCIENTIST IS SOMEONE WHO...

- Observes and wonders
- Asks questions
- Listens to ideas of others
- Conducts experiments
- Shares his/her ideas and discoveries
- Explores the world around him/her
- Uses tools to solve problems

A SCIENTISTS SAYS...

- I agree with you because...
- I disagree with you because...
- Why do you think that?
- So, what you're saying is...
- Can you tell me more?
- Can you give me an example?
- How could we test that?
- That reminds me of...

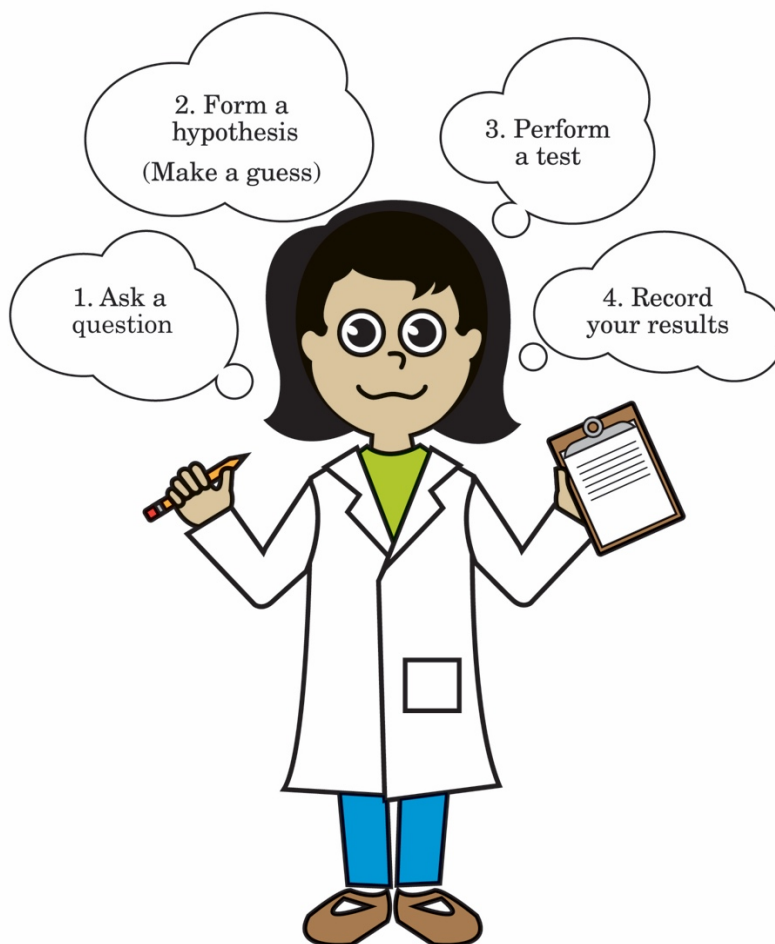


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DOES IT SINK OR FLOAT? SCIENTIFIC METHOD

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST



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