

Garden Lesson: Exploring Nature

Season: Spring | Grades: Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st

Ohio Science Concept

- Kindergarten: Physical and behavioral traits of living things: living things have physical traits and behaviors which influence their survival
- 1st Grade: Basic needs of living things: living things survive only in environments that meet their needs

Next Generation Science Standard (Kentucky Academic Standards)

- K-LS1-1 Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive
- 1-ESS1-2: Make observations at different times of year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year.

Science Inquiry and Application

- Communicate about observations, investigations and explanations
- Employ simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses

Ohio Mathematics Standards

- Kindergarten: Operations and algebraic thinking- understand addition as putting together and adding to, and subtraction as taking apart and taking from.
- 1st Grade: Geometry- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Objectives

Students will...

- Use magnifying glasses and observational skills to identify signs of interactions among components in a food web.
- Identify components of the school garden habitat and explain how they are related to each other.
- Practice proper harvesting techniques and enjoy eating a salad composed of produce they played a role in planting and watering.

Materials

- Transition signal (bell, chime, etc.)
- *Observe Station:* Food web cards
- *Explore Station:* Magnifying glasses
- *Garden Station:* Bowls, scissors, dressing

Overview

This lesson guides students in investigating their school garden habitats and food web. At the observe station, students discuss the plants and animals that live in the garden and how they are all connected. At the explore station, students are guided in searching the garden for signs of interactions between components of the food web. At the garden station, students harvest spring crops. The lesson ends with a celebration of the students' hard work, garden knowledge and connection to their food as the group eats the harvested crops in a salad together.

5 minutes Introduction

- Welcome & review expectations
- Group discussion about the garden habitat
- Break into three groups for station time

20 minutes Station Rotation (5 minutes per station + 1 minute for transition)



Observe: Garden Food Webs

Materials: Food web cards

- Encourage students to think of plants and animals they've seen in the garden.
- Lead a discussion about how the organisms they named interact or live in the garden.
- Give each student a picture of a plant or animal that can be found in the garden.
- Have students take turns holding up their card and sharing what they know about their organism.

Explore: Signs of Critters

Materials: Magnifying glasses

- Review ways in which plants and animals in a habitat could interact (food, homes, etc)
- As a group, have students look for signs of interactions between or among plants and animals.
- Show students a few examples and then encourage students to share interactions they see with the group.

Garden: Harvest

Materials: Bowls, scissors, dressing (optional)

- Walk around the garden and show students what is ready to be harvested.
- Demonstrate how to harvest properly so the plant can continue to grow.
- Give each student the chance to help harvest and put what they collect into a community bowl.

5 minutes Conclusion: What Can You Do?

- Share the harvested salad and celebrate the student's hard work, contributions and garden knowledge!
- Encourage students to garden with their families and in their future school years!

Food Web Cards



Sun



Eggplant

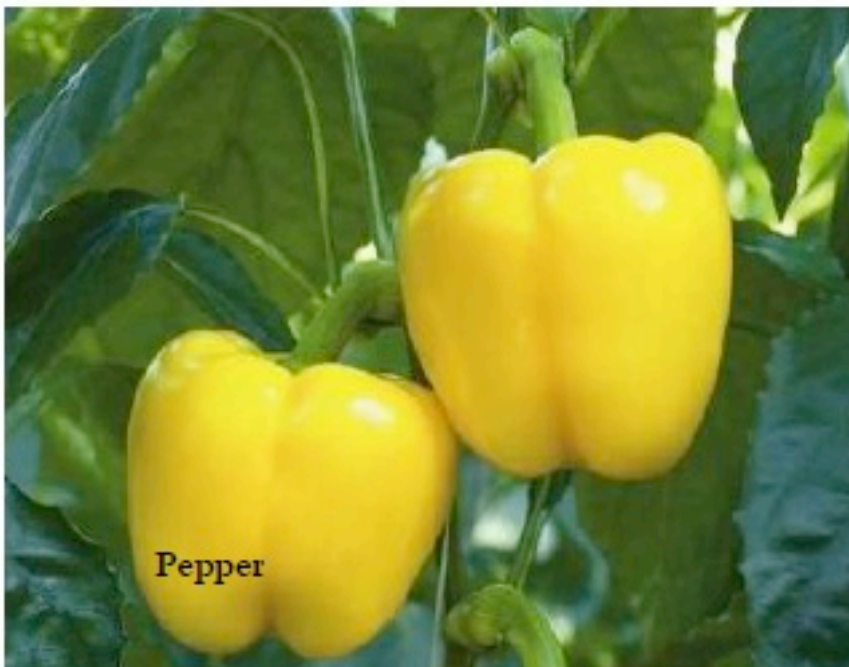


Grasshopper



Praying Mantis

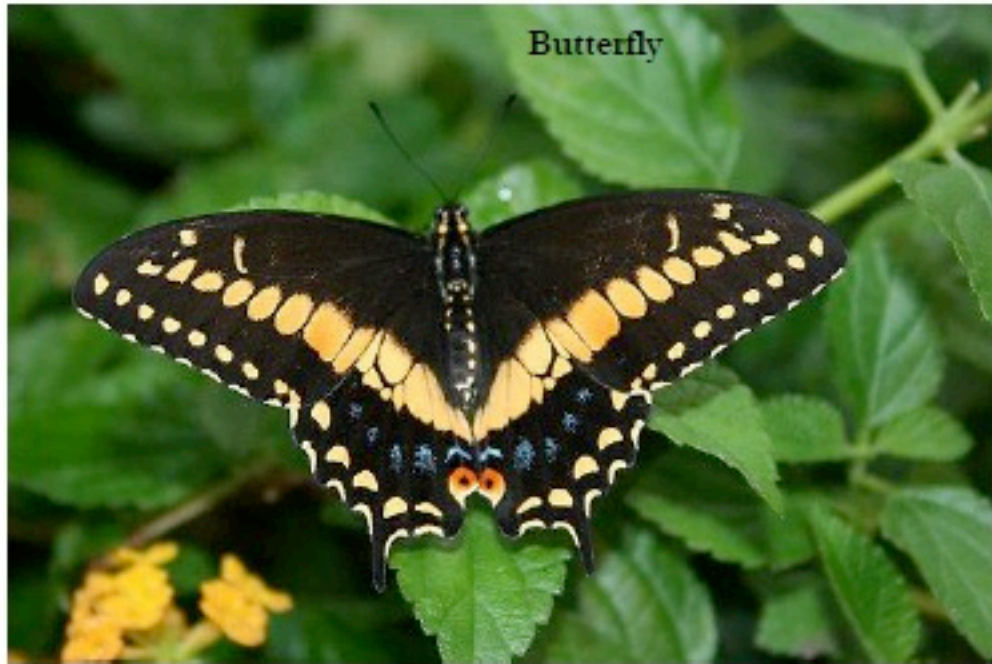






Pumpkin







Robin



Blue Jay





Bee

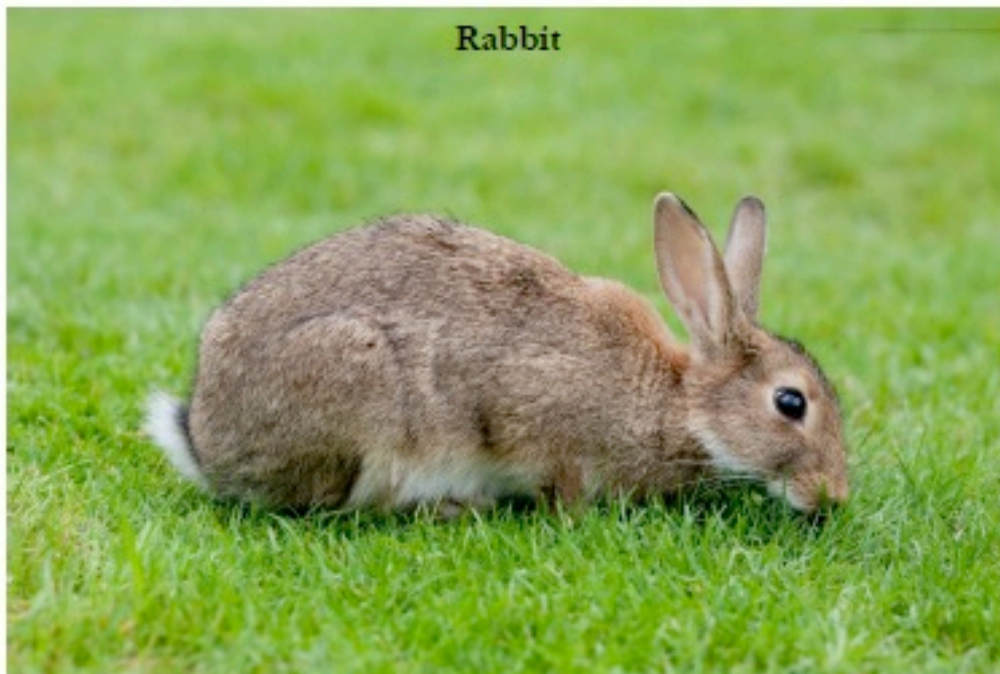




Frog



Worm





Squirrel



Acorn





Bat



Mushroom