

Gardening Related Activities

Acrostic

The Purpose: This is another great way to get students to try their hand at writing poetry

The Process: Acrostics are simple poems whereby each letter of a word or phrase begins a new line in the poem. Younger students can start off with something very simple, like their own name or their favorite pet and write this vertically down the page. Older students can take a word or phrase related to a topic they have been working on, or that they have a special interest, in and write this down the page before beginning to write.

What If

The Purpose: This challenge helps encourage students to see the link between the posing of interesting hypothetical questions and the creation of an entertaining piece of writing.

The Process: To begin this exercise, have the students come up with a single *What If* question which they can then write down on a piece of paper. The more off-the-wall the better!

- An alien decided...
- Lester picked all of the flowers
- Iris, decided that all the flowers had to be dug up to make room for a new _____
- Darren created a song, video game or location

Wordle

Write a story or descriptive article and create a wordle art piece <https://www.wordclouds.com/>

Shape poem

Joining imagination, language and art, there are many forms of writing that incorporate these three things. This website provides links to form generators:

<https://www.poemofquotes.com/tools/poetry-generator/>

Garden Game

What You Need:

List of animals that like to dine on garden plants (hummingbird, gold finch, butterfly, bee, moth, rabbits, chipmunks, etc.) and sticks or stones for marking the play space

What You Do:

1. Place stones in a line on one side of the play area to mark the garden gate.
2. Choose at least two gardeners to guard the "gate."
3. Have the other children line up on the other side of the gate and assign them the animal names. Make sure that at least two children share each animal name, so the chase is fair.
4. Have an adult call out the name of an animal at random. Those players make a run for the gate, while the gardeners try to catch them. Anyone tagged becomes a gardener. Keep playing until all the critters are tagged.
5. For younger children it may be more fun to have as many gardeners as animals, and give everyone a turn playing both.
6. For older children assign some players as bees and butterflies that chase the gardeners when they get called. If they tag a gardener, the gardeners must join the critter team.

How to Dry Coneflowers

- Cut stems from the garden about 12 inches from flower base and remove the leaves.
- Bundle three to four stems together and fasten with a rubber band, favorite ribbon, or twine.
- Invert the bundles and hang upside down in a location away from direct light, spacing bundles so that air can flow freely between them. (Wire hangers work well for this; tie bundles on each end and hang.)
- Once dried (approximately two weeks), cones are ready for use in dried floral arrangements or crafts.

DIY Seed Tape <https://childhood101.com/ideas-for-gardening-with-kids-how-to-make-seed-tape/>

What you need:

- Thin, unbleached paper like newsprint/re-purposed envelopes or tp rolls made from recycled paper
- Pencils or crayons (optional) To draw and label
- Mix flour and water into a paste (you won't need much)
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To make:

1. Cut your paper into strips approximately 2 centimeters wide.
2. If making your seed tape as a gift, decorate your paper strips with pencil or crayon.
3. Use the flour and water paste to glue your strips together, making one long length.
4. Check your packet of seeds to find out the correct spacing for planting. Place a small dab of paste along the strip for each seed, according to the recommended spacing. Then place one seed on each spot of paste.
5. Leave to dry.
6. If giving your seed tape as a gift, make a small gift tag that includes the planting instructions for your seeds. Gently roll up your tape and attach your gift tag with thread. Seed tape can be stored in an envelope or plastic press seal bag.
7. To plant your seed tape: Dig a shallow trench and lightly water. Lay your seed tape along the trench and cover with a little soil.
8. Gently water. Now wait and watch for your seeds to sprout and your plants to grow!

*variation is to paste seeds on a pink circle /plate like a coneflower or on a self drawn art humming bird, butterfly...

Finger print flowers–

1. Mix paint(flower color and center color) with dish soap and place in a plastic lid
2. Coat finger pads with paint according to where the color will be (petals, leaves, center).
3. Sprinkle seeds in center before it is dry. Add washable glue to secure seeds if needed.
4. Let dry.

Birdwatching

Free downloadable bird watching publications

<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/freebies.php>

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources>

Bees

blog/2012/06/22/why-bee-concerned-about-pollinators-they-are-little-things-run-world

Music/flower video links:

- Flower Gardens : How to Grow Purple Coneflower (Echinacea Purpurea) (teacher explains uses a globe) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qL4voHjfx1s>
- How To Draw Coneflower [Echinacea], Tutorial! - Painting With Parasolia! 3minutes- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJly_k_Co5I
- 5 Little Flowers Song for Kids With Lyrics | The Kiboomers (uses all caps in lyrics) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFWXPmUg_IQ
- Original Purple Coneflower song video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6CwZgcfsEg>
- 5 Spring Flower Songs for Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diiROdjJI-s>
- Butterfly Butterfly life cycle Rap <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rvGUevGxDk>
- Chinese Purple symphony link *special needs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLcVEhO-oWU>

Coneflower Research

A Comparison of the Antimicrobial Activities of Cultivated Echinacea angustifolia (Purple Coneflower) versus Wild E. angustifolia by © 2020 NATIVE SCIENCE REPORT
<https://nativesciencereport.org/2016/01/3839-2/>

Evaluation of Antioxidant Activity and Some Secondary Metabolites of Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea L.) in Response to Biological and Chemical Fertilizers. October 2019 Journal of Agricultural Science 11(17):1
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336565373_Evaluation_of_Antioxidant_Activity_and_Some_Secondary_Metabolites_of_Purple_Coneflower_Echinacea_purpurea_L_in_Response_to_Biological_and_Chemical_Fertilizers