

hands-on lessons that

Wildflower Greeting Cards

Plant some seeds and watch them grow! Young learners will make someone smile and share their knowledge of the plant life cycle with fun greeting cards.

Grade Level: PK-2

Objectives

Students will understand the life cycle of a plant.
Students will identify parts of the plant and understand what plants need to grow.

Literature Selections

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

From Seed to Plant by Gail Gibbons

Skills

cutting, gluing, fine motor skills

Set up and Prepare

Content Overview

Begin the lesson by tapping into what students already know about plants. Use a potted plant to illustrate the parts of the plant. Which parts do you see? Which parts are hidden under the dirt? What do you think plants need to grow?

Read *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle aloud to the students. Share the beautiful collage style illustrations as you discuss the simple description of a flowering plant's life cycle through the seasons. Explain the meaning of the word "summarize." Ask the students if they can summarize the author's explanation of the life cycle of a flower. As the students share their thoughts, draw a diagram on the board or chart paper.

Next, read *From Seed to Plant* by Gail Gibbons aloud to the students. Reinforce the plant life cycle and compare the two selections. How are they similar? How are they different?



Write the poem *The Little Seeds* on the board or chart paper and read aloud to the students. This is a fun poem for a choral reading activity and further reinforces the plant life cycle.

Materials

Elmer's® School Glue, card stock, pencil, scissors, wildflower seeds, small paper cups

Preparation

Cover your work surface. It's a good idea to have a large bucket or other container for the excess wildflower seeds. Cut card stock into pieces that are 5 1/2" x 8 1/2". Fill small paper cups with wildflower seeds for each student or small groups of students.

Directions

Instruct students to use a pencil to lightly draw a simple picture of a flower on the front of the card. Provide the students with a copy of *The Little Seeds* poem. Instruct them to cut the poem out and glue it to the inside of the card.

Trace the pencil drawing with Elmer's School Glue. The lines should be fairly thick to capture enough wildflower seeds. Encourage the students to create continuous lines with the glue.

While the glue is still wet, carefully sprinkle the seeds on to the card stock. Be sure to cover the glue completely with seeds.



Gently tap the excess seeds from the card over a bucket or a large container.

Allow the card to dry completely in a place that it will not be disturbed.

Let them decide who they would like to share the card with and provide an envelope for delivery. Encourage the students to demonstrate their learning by explaining how a seed grows into a flower when they deliver their greeting cards.

The Little Seeds

A few little seeds for you to sow
A few little things to make it grow
Plant this card in a sunny spot
In the ground or in a pot
Add a little sun and some showers
Wait for the sprout
And then the flowers!

Lesson Extensions

Create a nature journal that illustrates the many different types of flowers that you see. Take a spiral-bound notebook and a pencil on a nature walk. Draw the flowers that you see. After the walk, color the pictures.

Create a parts of a plant concept web. Draw the stages of the plant life cycle in the web.

Plant other seeds in the classroom such as pumpkins, beans or radishes. Compare how quickly the various seeds begin to sprout. Create a line graph to document the growth of each plant over time.

Standards

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to and responding to texts, including using frequently occurring conjunctions to signal simple relationships.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Identify basic similarities and differences between two different texts on the same topic.