



# Planting in the Garden

*Students plan and plant the fall garden.*

## **Goal**

Lead students in choosing what to plant, planning, and planting their fall garden.

## **Materials**

- fall seeds (with seed packets that have planting/spacing directions on them) or plant starts (with plant tags that have planting/spacing directions on them)
- wood craft sticks cut to 1" in length
- trowels
- watering cans
- fall vegetables to taste (optional)

## **Activities**

### **Vegetable Selection**

Come up with a list of fall vegetable planting options- depending on your region we recommend beets, carrots, radishes, lettuce, spinach, turnips, and onions. Have a vote on which fall vegetables the students want to grow. Discuss how each vegetable prefers to grow at a certain time of year. Which vegetables can grow in cool weather? If you have frost and freezes in your area, which vegetables can grow in those conditions? When purchasing your seeds or plant starts, take note of the suggested seed spacing on the seed packets or plant tags so that you can plan how many seeds or plant starts to purchase and plant in your garden space. While planting seeds is a more economical choice, plant starts offer instant gratification in planting and will allow you to harvest sooner. You can plant a combination of seed and plant starts.

### **Taste Test Planting Options (optional)**

It's can be helpful (and fun!) to taste test vegetables so students can choose which ones they want to plant.



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## Plan and Map the Vegetable Planting

Draw a bird's-eye view of the garden bed on a whiteboard or large piece of paper and guide the students in mapping out the location of the vegetables. As you go through each vegetable, explain how that vegetable grows – does it climb? Does it grow underground? Do we eat its root? Its leaves? Show the students examples of the seeds or plant starts you are going to plant. Do they want to plant in rows or create a design with the plants?

Again, take note of the suggested seed spacing on the seed packets or plant tags so that you can plan your planting accordingly. Explain that each vegetable grows differently and needs different amounts of space to grow. Show the students the 1" measuring tools (pre-cut wooden craft sticks). Explain how to use this tool to measure the space between each plant start or seed. For example, if lettuce plants need to be 5" apart then you would place 5 pieces of 1" wooden craft sticks in between each plant.

Other options for helping students to determine spacing are to mark spacing with tape along a piece of rope or string. The rope can then be laid down on the soil in the garden and students can plant along it at the indicated marks. You can also mark where to plant with baking flour.

## Garden Rules

If your class already has garden rules then review these before going out to the garden. If not, brainstorm with the students some important rules that everyone should follow in the garden. For example: work together, share tools, walk in the garden, keep dirt in the garden beds, stay on paths, etc.

## Planting in the Garden

Divide the class into groups and assign a specific vegetable for each group to plant. Lead the students in planting their seeds and/or plant starts. If the soil has clumps you can start by having students gently break up clumps with their hands.

With your finger (or use a string or baking flour) draw a line for the row where the seeds will go. Guide the students in counting out the wooden craft stick pieces to measure the space between each seed or plant start and guide them in how deep to plant seeds and/or plant starts.

After everything is planted have the students take turns watering the newly planted garden.