



Pre-K/Kindergarten Fall Lesson

Tops and Bottoms Salad Garden



Objective:

Students will learn that the vegetables they eat come from different parts of the plant, and they will be able to identify the primary parts of the plant and whether the vegetable grows above or below the ground.

California State Content Standards:

1. Science

2b: Students know stories sometimes give plants and animals attributes they do not really have.

2c: Students know how to identify major structures of common plants and animals (e.g., stems, leaves, roots, arms, wings, legs).

4c: Describe the relative position of objects by using one reference (e.g., above or below).

2. Language Arts

2.0 Reading Comprehension.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.2 Use pictures and context to make predictions about story content.

2.3 Connect to life experiences the information and events in texts.

2.4 Retell familiar stories.

2.5 Ask and answer questions about essential elements of a text.

Lesson Outline:

A. Read/review Tops and Bottoms book.

- a. Eat different parts of plants
- b. Bottoms = carrots, radishes = roots
- c. Tops = lettuce = leaves
- d. Middle = broccoli = flower buds

B. Garden Rules

C. Planting Plan

D. Plant

Materials:

Seeds: Carrots—Thumbelina or Nantes

Radish—Easter Egg or Cherry Belle

Lettuce—Red and Green varieties

Broccoli—DiCicchio

Lesson:

This lesson is based on the book “Tops and Bottoms” so you or the teacher must read the book before the lesson, and you must have the book on hand during the lesson. Point to the book throughout lesson to reinforce concepts. This lesson is best done as a question/answer (i.e. “When Bear said he wanted the tops of the plants, Rabbit tricked him by planting vegetables that only taste good on the bottom. What vegetables do we eat that grow under the ground on the bottom of the plant?”).

Today we are planting a special salad garden that will teach us about the different parts of plants that we eat when we eat a salad. Today you will each get to plant some vegetable seeds. Then, you will get to watch your garden grow for the next few months. In a few months, you will have a special party where you get to harvest all the vegetables from the garden and eat a delicious salad that you grew!

Your teacher will/has read you Tops and Bottoms, a story about a hard-working rabbit who wants to grow food and a lazy bear. Review basics of the story.

Like Rabbit in the Tops and Bottoms story, we are going to plant some vegetables that only taste good on the bottom, some that only taste good on top and some that we eat only the middle.

For the bottoms, we will plant carrots and radishes. Do we eat the leaves of the carrot or radish plant? (Point to pictures of carrot and radish leaves in book). No, we eat only the bottom or the “root” of the carrot and radish plant.

For the tops, we will plant lettuce. When we eat lettuce, we are eating the leaves of the lettuce plants. Do we eat the roots of the lettuce plants (point to picture of lettuce roots in book). No, we eat only the leaves.

For the middles, we will plant broccoli. In the book, Rabbit plants corn. We are not planting corn because it is not the right season for corn to grow. Corn only grows in very warm weather—during the summer. Is it summer? No, it is fall and winter. It is too cold to grow corn. Instead we will grow broccoli, which likes to grow in the cool weather of fall and winter. Broccoli is a “middle” because we eat the flower bud of the broccoli plant. We leave the roots and leaves of the broccoli plant and just cut the flower buds out of the middle to eat.

Garden Rules:

- 1. IMPORTANT REMINDER** Plants can be poisonous: Plants and flowers in the school garden are safe for eating because we plant them specially for food and do not use any chemicals or pesticides that would be harmful if eaten.
 - Children must NEVER eat a plant or flower they find growing anywhere at school, home or in their neighborhood unless their parent or another responsible adult says it is ok!!!
 - Many plants are VERY POISONOUS. Plants are tricky because many look alike. You may think it is a plant that is safe to eat, but it may not be.
 - Many people put chemical pesticides on their plants to kill bugs or give plants special food called fertilizer that is safe for the plants, but not safe for people. These chemicals are NOT SAFE for people to eat!!!
- 2. Quiet voices, no running**—do not disturb the creatures in the garden or the students in nearby classrooms. The garden is a classroom just like all the other classrooms at school. All the same rules as in your classroom, like no running, yelling, climbing, apply in the garden as well.
- 3. Listen to instructions** and plant as you are told or your plants may not grow. If you plant too many seeds or put the seeds in the wrong place, your seeds will not grow.

Planting Plan:

- Students will each get to plant one type of seed or plant

- We will assign each student the type of seed or plant they get to plant
- We will tell you where and how to plant your seed.
- It doesn't matter what you plant today—the entire class will share the garden harvest. You will get to taste everything planted today, and you will not have to eat anything you do not want to eat at the harvest party.

Planting Directions:

For all seeds: Make rows 6 inches apart and ¼ inch deep. Have students place seeds 1 inch apart in row. Easiest if you hold seeds and students pinch them from your hand/cup one at a time. Do not let students dig holes for seeds—seeds will be planted too deep and will not grow. Have students pinch dirt closed and gently pat down to cover rows after they place their seeds.



Teacher Information

PEP/Kindergarten

Fall Planting

Tops and Bottoms Salad Garden



This week your Kindergarteners will participate in the GrowingGreat Garden program. All activities through the GrowingGreat Garden program support California State Standards in science, language arts, or social studies. Here are the details for your fall planting:

This garden is based on the book Tops and Bottoms by Jan Stevens. Please read the book to your students before the planting. The story teaches students that the different vegetables they eat come from different parts of the plant. Just like Rabbit in the story, the students will plant “bottoms,” “tops,” and “middle” vegetables. Carrots and radishes are the “bottoms,” lettuces are the “tops,” and broccoli is the “middle.”

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Please visit the garden throughout the season to watch the garden grow. We will plan a harvest party in several months when crops are ready.