

GRADE 3 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Egg Carton Garden

Summary

In this hands-on lesson, students will plant a seed in an egg carton containing a soil/compost mixture, and then watch it sprout! Students will learn about the science of composting, as well as the importance of composting at home and at school.

Objective

To teach students the science of composting and to promote composting through hands-on activities.

Pre-Activity

GROUP DISCUSSION

DIRECTIONS

Write the following vocabulary words on the board:

Compost, Decompose, Organic Material, Fertilizer

Break students into small groups and have them brainstorm what the words mean then share their thoughts with the class.

Share that composting is nature's way of decomposing organic material into a rich soil. Compost is important to plants because it is a fertilizer.

Activity

EGG CARTON GARDEN

DIRECTIONS

Explain that the class will be planting seeds in a combination of soil and compost, and watching them sprout over the next month.

MATERIALS

Whiteboard
and markers

DURATION

10 mins

DURATION

5 mins

MAIN LEARNING OUTCOME

GRADE:

3

SUBJECT:

Science



Outcome 1

Students will investigate the properties of soil and its effect on living things.

Indicators

- Observe and describe how living things affect and are affected by soil
- Describe and respond to ways in which soil is important to living things and the environment

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

English Language Arts



Outcome 1

Listening and Speaking

Students will communicate effectively and clearly and respond personally and critically.

divertNS.ca



Share on social media!
#NothingWasted

ABOUT DIVERT NS

Divert NS is a not-for-profit organization championing recycling in Nova Scotia. For over 20 years we've helped build a culture of recycling through environmental stewardship, education, and innovation.

Divert NS operates the Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program and the Used Tire Management Program. In addition, we work in collaboration with government, industry, and academia to divert waste-resources from landfill.

Divert NS, in partnership with municipalities, delivers education and awareness programs to schools, businesses, and community groups. Divert NS also works to develop stewardship agreements and funds innovative research and development initiatives.

We welcome feedback from students and teachers on these lesson plans and resources. Please send your feedback to:



Toll-free
1.877.313.7732
info@divertns.ca
divertNS.ca

EGG CARTON GARDEN (cont'd)

DIRECTIONS

Have each student follow these steps:

- Cut out an individual egg holder from the larger egg carton.
- Fill the egg holder with the soil/compost mixture.
- Plant a seed in the soil following the instructions on the seed packet (Keep the soil moist until the seed sprouts, then water as needed.)
- Write his/her name on a piece of paper attached to each egg holder.

Note: See the **Compost Creators** lesson plan to learn more about making your own batch of compost.

MATERIALS

Egg cartons
Bag of soil
Compost (available in stores or from your local municipality)
Seeds (beans, or cucumbers recommended)

DURATION

20 minutes

Post-Activity

PREDICTING THE PLANT LIFE CYCLE

DIRECTIONS

Have each student name his/her plant.

Ask students to predict what their plant will look like over the next month by filling in the **Plant Growth Activity Sheet (Appendix 1)**. Each student will draw how he/she predicts the plant will look after two weeks, three weeks, and one month.

After two weeks, three weeks, and one month, have students again fill in the Plant Growth Activity Sheet to compare how they thought the plant would look to how it actually looks.

OPTION FOR EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Once the seedlings are growing, transplant them into a school or community garden. The class could also arrange a field trip to a nearby community garden or farmers' market, where students can speak with gardeners/farmers about the importance of compost.

MATERIALS

Appendix 1
Plant Growth
Activity Sheet

School or
community
garden

Local Farmers'
Market

Assessment

FORMATIVE

Assess student understanding by observing their work at different stages throughout the lesson.

SUMMATIVE (OPTIONAL)

Option to collect and correct the Plant Growth Activity Sheet.

Plant Growth Activity Sheet

Your Plant's Name: _____ Your Name: _____

Plant Species: _____

DRAW YOUR PLANT AS A SEED

PREDICTION	ACTUAL
DRAW YOUR PLANT AT 3 WEEKS	

PREDICTION	ACTUAL
DRAW YOUR PLANT AT 1 WEEK	

PREDICTION	ACTUAL
DRAW YOUR PLANT AT 2 WEEKS	