

INTEGRATING THE GARDEN INTO YOUR CURRICULUM

Social Studies



The garden is a great place to teach social skills and cooperative work, expand horizons, and promote understanding of our world and other people. Students can:

- Enjoy trying new vegetables by picking and eating them right out of the garden.
- Make a salad and have a class party. Invite grandparents, parents, principal, and garden volunteers.
- Study, grow, and prepare ethnic foods for a cultural feast.
- Share family recipes using garden produce.
- Grow Native American crops.
- Explore the contributions of Native American cultures to our agricultural practices and diet.
- Take field trips to local farms, food production companies, restaurants, or markets to show the progression from seed to table.
- Give garden produce to a local charity for the needy.

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Group projects create ownership and inspire interest in the garden. They can also become cross-age opportunities using “garden buddies” of younger students mentored by older students. Some projects lend themselves to entire school involvement.

- Hold a contest for garden design, scarecrows, etc.
- Produce a garden newsletter: include poems, stories, and garden articles.
- Mount a photo exhibit charting the progress of the garden project, the participation by students, and the seasonal changes in the garden.
- Produce a video or Power Point Presentation about the garden.
- Teach environmental awareness using the garden as a focal point for litter removal, recycling, conservation and sustainable (earth friendly) garden practices. Relate these practices to air and water pollution, energy conservation, erosion, climate change, and other environmental concerns.
- Check with your principal to see if there is support to start a worm composting project with waste from the school cafeteria. You will need to work with your cafeteria manager to determine how best to sort the waste so that meats, dairy, and bakery products are not included in the waste for worm composting. [Click here to link to the Compost topic for more information.](#)
- Sell dried flowers or produce for a class or school fundraiser.