

INTEGRATING THE GARDEN INTO YOUR CURRICULUM

Science



The garden lends itself to many science lessons at all grade levels. Check out the Life Science section for specific grade level Science Standards. The garden is a hands-on laboratory for teaching concepts of classification, plant physiology and reproduction, ecology, plant and animal interaction, animal behavior, weather, and health and nutrition.

Younger students may:

- Germinate bean seeds in plastic baggies or jars.
- Sprout a carrot or pineapple top.
- Dissect flowers to learn about the parts and their functions.
- Discuss daily nutritional needs while grazing on fruits and vegetables.

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Using observational skills, all grades might learn animal behavior from those in the garden:

- Make a toad house and learn about amphibians.
- Make a scarecrow and observe the birds' reactions over time.
- Identify and observe insects. [Click here to link to the IPM form.](#) After research, sort into beneficials and pests.
- Build a praying mantis house and study and record their habits.
- Study local birds and build bird houses or feeders.
- Study worms and build a worm bin: harvest the castings. [Click here to link to the Compost topic of this guide.](#)

[Click here to link to Curriculum Lesson References for more detailed science lessons that are tied to the California State Standards.](#)