

Recommended Grade Level:

K-2

Season:

All

Indoors

Seasonal Gardening

Description:

Students will study what produce can be grown during the four seasons of the year in their region.

Students will play a matching game to review what they have learned about seasonal planting.

Background:

The seasons of the year offer different opportunities to grow produce in different parts of the country. Some regions can grow in the soil year round, while others need to grow indoors or in green houses for the winter. Fruits and vegetables taste better when they're in season and often are more affordable. It's important to know what your growing region is and to research what can be grown at different times of the year. The USDA has many helpful tips to help you know when to plant.

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>.

Materials:

- Seasonal Gardening Chart
- Large butcher paper divided into four sections labeled Winter – Spring – Summer – Fall
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Produce Matching Game Cards

Preparation:

Determine how many groups the students will be divided into. Make copies of the Seasonal Gardening Chart for each group.

Activity:

1. Ask the class what they know about the seasons of the year.
 - What are the four seasons?
 - How is the weather during each season in your region?
 - What foods do you eat in the four seasons?

2. Explain that the four seasons of the year affect our everyday lives, from the clothes we wear to the food we eat. Some fruits and vegetables can only be grown during certain seasons of the year, while some can be grown all year long. This is why fruits and vegetables are grown in different places since the four seasons are different across the country. It's important to know what fruits and vegetables are in season:
 - Gardeners can plan what they'll plant according to the season, so they can have a good harvest.
 - Fruits and vegetables that are in season normally taste better and are more affordable.
3. Divide students into groups and pass out the Seasonal Gardening Chart. Discuss what can be grown at different times of the year and allow students to share some of their favorite fruits and vegetables for each season.
4. Have students draw a fruit or vegetable from each season that they will share on the class poster "Eating through the Four Seasons." Display the poster in the classroom or in the hallway.
5. Have students play a matching game using the produce pictures and cards. Students will match the picture of the produce to the name. Students can also separate the matched cards by season.

Tying it Together:

1. Pick a fruit or vegetable and ask students when the best time of the year to eat it is.
2. Why should you consider seasons when planting your garden?
If you plant at the wrong time, your plants won't grow properly and you won't have a good harvest.

Special Care:

Seasonal fruits and vegetables could be sketched for students and they could color and cut them out for the "Seasons in the Garden" poster.

Digging Deeper:

Compare types of plants that grow better in different seasons. Look for patterns. Which fruits and vegetables grow in winter? Spring? Summer? Fall?

National Standards:

CCSS.ELA: Text types and purposes.

CCSS.ELA: Research to build and present knowledge.

NGSS: Interdependent relationships in ecosystems.

Lesson Extensions:

Health: Bring in examples of fruits and vegetables that are fresh, canned, frozen and dried. Have students sample a taste from each. Ask students to decide which they like the best by writing their name on a sticky note and placing it on the board under the columns fresh, canned, frozen or dried. Create a class graph from the responses. Explain why food is packaged in different ways and that foods cost more when they aren't in season.

Math: Compare total number of plants that can grow at each season. Compare number of days to harvest by using seed packets or growing guides. Use the following website as a reference:
<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene0391.html>

Science: Students create a planting guide for what they would like growing in their “dream garden” during each season.

Literature Connections:







An Apple Tree Through The Year by Claudia Schnieper

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown







Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and Food Web in Our Backyard by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld and Priscilla Lamont

Seasonal Gardening Chart

Fall Crops







	Brussels Sprouts		Apples
	Pumpkin		Sweet Potato
	Pear		Butternut Squash

Winter Crops







	Broccoli		Carrot
	Orange		Spinach
	Cauliflower		Kale

Seasonal Gardening Chart

Spring Crops

	Leeks		Fava Beans
	Lettuce		Asparagus
	Radish		Peas

Summer Crops

	Melons		Grapes
	Cucumbers		Summer Squash
	Corn		Tomato

Produce Matching Game Cards



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Pumpkin	Brussel Sprouts	Apple
Broccoli	Sweet Potato	Cauliflower
Lettuce	Orange	Pear
Kale	Spinach	Asparagus

Produce Matching Game Cards

Peas	Radish	Butternut Squash
Carrots	Fava Beans	Leeks
Melon	Tomato	Summer Squash
Grapes	Corn	Cucumber