

Grades Pre-K–K • 40 mins • Spring

NEW!

GRADES PRE-K–K

SCHOOL PARTNER
LESSON PLAN

? ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What are the different ways that seeds can spread and be planted?

🕒 MATERIALS

- Clay
- Compost
- Wildflower seeds
- Water cups
- A tarp for covering the table
- Bowls
- Wooden spoons
- Hand washing station
- Trays to dry the seed balls

Abc VOCABULARY

- Compost

✓ ASSESSMENT

- Observation

PREPARATION

Gather the ingredients for seed balls and measure out the proper amounts per station. For example, if there are 4 groups of students, set up 4 bowls with the “ingredients” for the seed balls pre-measured in correct ratios.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

The teacher should practice making the seed balls before creating them with the entire class. Seed balls are messy and it’s good to understand the set up and clean up process.

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Students will review what seeds need to grow, and how they are planted (human planting, dropped by animals, carried by the wind, etc). Then, the students will create their own seed balls using compost, clay, and wildflower seeds, which will be planted around the garden once dry.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- By the end of the lesson, students will be able to understand the concept of seed dispersal and create their own seed balls.

Content Learning Objectives*Garden Planning and Maintenance*

GPM.K.1 Describe what lives in a garden and name what it needs to live.

ACADEMIC STANDARD CONNECTIONS

K-LS1-1 Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

*Lesson Sequence**Engage***Cultivate Curiosity:**

Ask questions to check their prior knowledge about seeds, such as “What do seeds need to grow?” and “How do seeds get planted?”

*Explore***Root Around:**

Show the students a sample seed ball or use visuals to demonstrate what a seed ball looks like. Explain that seed balls are a fun and effective way to help plants grow in different areas.

*Explain***Grow Understanding:**

Divide the class into small groups. Provide each group with a mixing bowl, pre-measured clay and compost, and water. Instruct the students to mix 1 part clay, 3 parts compost or soil, and a little water to form a workable dough-like consistency. Encourage the students to knead the mixture thoroughly until it is well combined. Have the students take a small portion of the mixture and flatten it on their palm. Place a few seeds in the center of the flattened clay mixture. Show them how to fold the clay mixture around the seeds and roll it into a ball. Repeat the process to make multiple seed balls.

*Elaborate***Observe the Fruits:**

Discuss the importance of seed balls in helping plants grow and spread. Ask the students to share their thoughts on the activity and what they learned about seeds and planting. Congratulate them on their efforts and encourage them to observe and care for their seed balls as they dry.

*Evaluate***Reflect:**

Encourage students to journal or draw about their seed ballmaking experience.



ADAPTING FOR INDOORS

This lesson can be conducted indoors or outdoors.



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