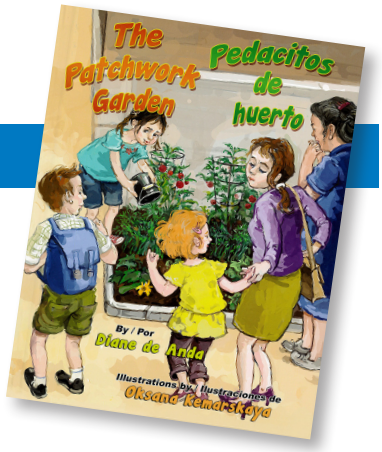
The Patchwork Garden



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

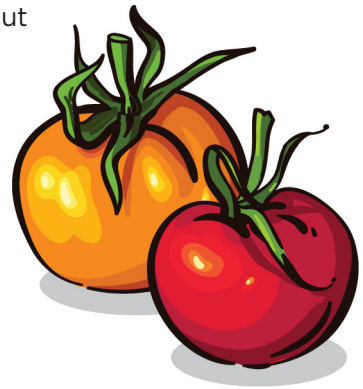
SCIENCE, MATH
TOMATO TASTE TEST

Question: Do homegrown tomatoes taste better than tomatoes from the store?

Research: Take a class poll or have students poll others. Record the answers on a graph.

Hypothesis: Make a hypothesis based on the results of the poll.

Procedure: To test the hypothesis, get one tomato from a farmers market or garden and one from the store. Cut the tomatoes into small pieces and place them on paper plates labeled A and B; keep the tomatoes separate. Do not tell children which tomato came from which place. Let students sample each tomato and vote for their favorite.



Data Analysis: Tally the student responses on the board.

Report Results: Reveal which tomato was homegrown and which was store bought. Was the hypothesis correct? What variables may have changed the results?

TECHNOLOGY
GOING GREEN

Students can sharpen their "going green" skills by logging on to **https://www.livingmontessori.com/sustainability-activities-for-kids/.**

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE
BUILD A GERMINATOR

Materials per student: 1 plastic baggie with zipper, 1 paper towel, 1/2 cup water, 4 lima bean seeds, stapler, ruler, markers, tape

Have students fold paper towels so they fit inside the baggie. Using a ruler, measure 3 inches from the top of the baggie; draw a horizontal line across the bag. Staple along the line to create a shelf for the seeds. Pour in water and let it absorb into paper towel. Add seeds onto shelf. Seal baggie closed. Tape the germinators onto a window to gather sunlight. Observe and record what happens to the seeds. Once germinated, seeds can be removed and planted in soil.

ART
A GIFT THAT GROWS

Materials: paper, markers or crayons, glue, flower seeds

Have each student make a card for a friend or family member. They should glue flower seeds onto the front of the card to decorate it. Inside, have students write a message, along with instructions for the recipient to plant the card after reading it and see what sprouts up!

MATH, SCIENCE
SPACE INVADERS

Materials: 5 small pots, soil, radish seeds

Help students see the importance of correct seed spacing when planting. In pot 1, plant 1 radish seed. In pot 2, plant 5 seeds. In pot 3, plant 10 seeds. In pot 4, plant 15 seeds. In pot 5, plant 20 seeds. Water seeds and let them grow. Once the radishes have matured, compare the size of radishes from each pot. Measure the width of each radish. Chart the results. What might explain the differences in size?