



2021-2022 CURRICULUM

How the Garden Ranger Program Works

The Garden Ranger Program is a comprehensive school garden system that cares for the garden and delivers our engaging curriculum. The Garden Ranger is on site, one day a week, usually from 8am to 12pm.

1 school year (apx Sept. to May) = 5 to 6 rotations
1 rotation = 6 weeks (one day per week in the garden)
1 day = 3 classes in the garden

How the Curriculum Works

Each 6 week rotation has diverse but cohesive lessons. Lessons line up with grade level standards. Our lessons aim to touch upon the following topics:



SOIL

Students learn about garden rules, garden behavior, and what is in the garden. This is the perfect way to revisit a soil lesson, and to build off prior knowledge. Students get their hands dirty!

PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT



Students personally engage in the garden using their senses, and language. Lessons focus on creative writing and art as a way to build on a student's personal experience.



DIVERSITY

Whether discussing differences in plant varieties or pollinators, this week is centered on diversity. Students need to understand that it takes a variety of species to keep a garden growing.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



This week students discuss topics regarding the environment. Topics include water conservation, landfill waste, recycling, re-purposing, energy, and much more.



COMPOST

Every year students need a compost lesson! Grades 1-2 discuss worm composts while Grades 3-5 discuss varying compost techniques. Topics also cover issues of food waste and food accessibility.

FOOD



As the last week of the rotation, this lesson has a fun, food centered theme. We want students to walk away remembering that they enjoy eating healthy foods!



How Units Work

For every grade, there are at least 2 units.

1 Unit = 6 lessons that correspond to a rotation (1 lesson per week)

Unit 1: For classes that have never had garden class before. This is an **introductory unit**.

Units 2 - 4: For classes that have had garden class before. This builds up on previous knowledge.

Unit 1 (for Grades PK-5th)

Week 1: Welcome Gardeners!

Week 2: Let's Talk Dirt

Week 3: Friends and Foes

Week 4: Climate and Seasons

Week 5: Parts of a Plant

Week 6: Harvesting Picnic

Pre-K and Kindergarten

UNIT 2

Week 1: 5 Senses in the Garden

Week 2: Parts of a Seed

Week 3: How Does a Seed Grow?

Week 4: How Does a Flower Grow?

Week 5: Anatomy of a Bee

Week 6: Life cycle of a Butterfly

UNIT 3 - SENSES

Week 1: 5 Senses in the Garden

Week 2: Sense of Sight

Week 3: Sense of Smell

Week 4: Sense of Taste (Citrus Family)

Week 5: Sense of Sound

Week 6: Sense of Touch

UNIT 4 - BUGS/INSECTS

Week 1: Friends and Foes

Week 2: All About Ants

Week 3: Snails and Slugs

Week 4: Pill Bug Investigation

Week 5: Worm Lesson

Week 6: All About Lady Bugs

UNIT 5 - PARTS OF THE PLANT

Week 1: Watermelon Seed Discovery

Week 2: Studying Flowers

Week 3: Leaves and How they Breathe

Week 4: Examining Roots

Week 5: Stem Discovery

Week 6: Fruits vs. Vegetables

1st Grade

UNIT 2

Week 1: 5 Garden Food Chain
 Week 2: 5 Senses in the Garden
 Week 3: A Seed is Sleepy
 Week 4: Water Conservation
 Week 5: Intro to Composting
 Week 6: Whole vs. Processed Foods

UNIT 3 - PLANT ADAPTATIONS

Week 1: Plant Adaptations Introduction
 Week 2: Can Plants Climb?
 Week 3: Roots Respond to Gravity
 Week 4: Plants Need Light
 Week 5: Same, But not the Same
 Week 6: Nature Can Affect Plants; Good or Bad

2nd Grade

UNIT 2

Week 1: Soil and the Texture Triangle
 Week 2: Garden Haikus
 Week 3: 3 Types of Honey Bees
 Week 4: The Water Cycle
 Week 5: Worms, Worms, Worms
 Week 6: Eat Your Fruits and Veggies!

UNIT 3 - PLANT ADAPTATIONS

Week 1: Plant Adaptations Introduction
 Week 2: Can Plants Climb?
 Week 3: Roots Respond to Gravity
 Week 4: Plants Need Light
 Week 5: Same, But not the Same
 Week 6: Nature Can Affect Plants; Good or Bad

3rd Grade

UNIT 2

Week 1: Soil and Nutrients
 Week 2: Plant Aromatherapy
 Week 3: Native Species
 Week 4: Reduce Reuse Recycle
 Week 5: Let's Make a Compost Pile
 Week 6: A Balanced Plate

UNIT 3 - SEEDS UNIT

Week 1: Parts of A Seed
 Week 2: Seed Dispersal
 Week 3: Harvesting Seeds
 Week 4: Harvesting and Eating Seeds II
 Week 4: Seed Cookies
 Week 5: Native Seed Balls

UNIT 4 - MATH IN THE GARDEN

Week 1: Introduction
 Week 2: Let's Weight In
 Week 3: Drip Drop
 Week 4: Area
 Week 5: Charting Ahead
 Week 6: Presentations

UNIT 5 - PLANT ADAPTATIONS

Week 1: Plant Adaptations Introduction
 Week 2: Can Plants Climb?
 Week 3: Roots Respond to Gravity
 Week 4: Plants Need Light
 Week 5: Same, But not the Same
 Week 6: Nature Can Affect Plants; Good or Bad

4th Grade

UNIT 2

- Week 1: 5 Soil Conservation
- Week 2: How to Identify Plants
- Week 3: Native vs. Invasive Species
- Week 4: Three Sisters Garden
- Week 5: Compost Relay
- Week 6: Corn to Tortillas

UNIT 3 - JOURNALS

- Week 1: The Garden
- Week 2: Garden Beds
- Week 3: The Individual Plant
- Week 4: Research
- Week 5: Poster
- Week 6: Presentation

5th Grade

UNIT 2

- Week 1: Permaculture
- Week 2: Nature Boards
- Week 3: Flower Anatomy and Pollination
- Week 4: Farm to Table
- Week 5: Food Waste 101
- Week 6: Food Jobs

UNIT 3 - JOURNALS

- Week 1: The Garden
- Week 2: Garden Beds
- Week 3: The Individual Plant
- Week 4: Research
- Week 5: Poster
- Week 6: Presentation

UNIT 4 - BIODIVERSITY

- Week 1: Biodiversity
- Week 2: Food Webs
- Week 3: Habitats Around the World
- Week 4: Preserving the Balance
- Week 5: The Phylo Ecosystem Game
- Week 6: The Phylo Game II

Middle School (6 - 8th)

UNIT 1: GARDEN CARE

- Week 1: Welcome Gardeners!
- Week 2: How to Plant a Seed
- Week 3: Let's Talk Dirt
- Week 4: In the Weeds
- Week 5: Pruning 101
- Week 6: Harvest Party

UNIT 2: CULINARY ARTS AROUND THE WORLD

- Week 1: Welcome Garden Chefs!
- Week 2: USA Food History
- Week 3: Latin American Food History
- Week 4: African Food History
- Week 5: Asian Food History
- Week 6: Top Chef in the Garden!