

Plant Power Exploration

April-May Grades 4-6 (90 minutes)

What are some possible learning activities that may occur?

- Answer the essential question: How can I use plants to make our environment healthier and our community better?
- Learn about compost and worms
- Create a 2 liter composter for future observations and exploration
- Participate in a garden tour
- Observe the benefits of plants in preventing loss of top soil
- Garden to benefit a food bank

What will my students learn?

- Plants benefit our environment and our communities in many ways
- Unwanted materials can be used in new ways to benefit our environment
- Plants play a vital role in energy cycling
- Plants impact top soil
- Nature promotes well-being in our lives and in the community
- We impact our environment and our community

Standards:

- 4SL.2.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grade-appropriate topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing personal ideas clearly.
- 5.SL.2.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grade-appropriate topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing personal ideas clearly.
- 6.SL.2.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (e.g.,one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grade-appropriate topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing personal ideas clearly.
- 4-ESS2-1: Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.
- 5-LS2-1: Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the idea that matter that is not food (air, water, decomposed materials in soil) is changed by plants into matter that is food. Examples of systems could include organisms, ecosystems, and the Earth.]
- MS-LS1-6: Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms.
- 5-ESS3-1: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.