Teamwork Makes the Garden Grow

Objective: Students will investigate the roles of garden organisms, including insects, toads, and turtles, and explore how living things interact within a garden ecosystem. Through hands-on planting, students will identify the basic needs of plants, establish container gardens, and practice environmental stewardship.

Materials: magnifying glasses, gardening tools, seeds, and popsicle sticks

1. Discuss "Community Helpers:" bugs and other animals that help the garden grow, including turtles and toads. Discuss the role that each of them play.
2. Instruct the students explore the garden to look for these "community helpers."
3. After finding some of the "helpers" in the natural habitat, have the students use a magnifying glasses to examine them closely.
4. Plant the container gardens! (We planted lettuce, bok choy, radish, swish chard, and carrots.)
5. Label each garden with a popsicle stick.

Mindfulness Activity- Growing Together

Length**:** 1–2 minutes

Materials: none

Have students imagine they are a tiny seed growing into a healthy plant.

- Crouch down like a seed.
- Slowly rise as you take a deep breath.
- Stretch your arms toward the sunshine.
- Gently sway like a plant in the breeze.

Repeat.

Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)

SOL Strands: Living Systems and Processes; Scientific and Engineering Practices
Primary SOL Alignment: K.6, K.7a, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5

Month: September