

Focus on: Harvesting Seeds

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Plants on Earth. This lesson must be completed well into the growing season in order to maximize the number of plants that have produced seeds.

Clarifying Objectives:

3.L.2.1 Remember the function of the following plant structures as it relates to the survival of plants in their environment:

- Roots –absorb nutrients
- Stems –provide support
- Leaves – synthesize food
- Flowers – attract pollinators and produce seed for reproduction

3.L.2.2 Explain how environmental conditions determine how well plants survive and grow.

3.L.2.3 Summarize the distinct stages of the life cycle of seed plants.

Key Vocabulary:

Definitions can be found at <http://learnersdictionary.com>

-Function
-Plant Structures
-Survive/ Survival
-Environment /Environmental
-Conditions
-Roots
-Absorb
-Nutrients
-Stems
-Support
-Leaves
-Synthesize
-Flowers
-Pollinators
-Produce
-Reproduction
-Summarize
-Stages
-Life Cycle
-Seed Plants

Focus Question(s):

How are the seeds and seed pods of one plant similar to or different from other plants?

Materials:

School Garden
Snack-sized bags for collecting seeds
Camera, iPad or other device to photograph plants

Activities:

- Discuss harvesting seeds.
- Watch “Plant Parts We Eat: Fruits and Seeds”
<http://app.discoveryeducation.com/player/view/assetGuid/197F45AD-E2FE-4B3B-86F3-66A4D70B05F4>
- Discuss
- Tell students they are going to have a “Seed Search” in our school garden.
- Review the parts of the plant that are likely to have seeds.
- Give students bags in which to collect their seeds.
- As students find plants with seeds, photograph the plants and collect the seeds.
- Review photographs of the plants containing seeds.
- Discuss.

Guiding Questions:

- What part of the plant is likely to produce seeds?
- Will we look near the roots for seeds?
- Do all plants produce seeds in the same way?
- How are the seed pods of one plant the same as the seed pods from another plant?
- How are the seed pods of one plant different from the seeds pods of another plant?
- How many seeds were found in a single pod?
- Do the number of seeds differ from plant to plant?