

Terrible Weeds!

Lesson Description


In this lesson, students will explore how weeds affect plants in their garden and the environment as a whole.

- Time required: 60 minutes
- Location of lesson: Classroom and garden



Learning Objectives

- Learn how weeds affect the school garden and the environment.
- Create wanted posters for their weeds.


Materials and Preparation

- Weeding materials (shovels, gloves, etc.)
- Markers and/or crayons
- Tape
-  **Wanted: Weeds Handout**– print 1 per student
- Prepared vegetable snack of the week – 1 for each student
- Water to drink during the Class Warm-up – water dispenser in the classroom and 1 cup or a water bottle for each student

Class Warm-up: Champion Cheer and Veggie Taste Test (5-10 minutes)

- Give each student a cup of water or ensure that they have a filled water bottle in front of them.
- Give each student the prepared veggie snack of the day.
- Lead the students in enthusiastically reciting the  **Champion Cheer**.
- At the end of the cheer, drink water and eat the veggie snack together.
- Have students complete their  **Taste Test Observations** about the vegetable snack of the week.

Review of Last Lesson (2-3 minutes)

- Review the evaluation questions from last week's lesson. Evaluation questions from all lessons are listed at the end of the  workbook.



Class Discussion (5-10 minutes)

Today we will be talking about weeds and how they affect our garden and the environment.

Ask the following questions and record the students' ideas on the board:

- *How do you think weeds affect the plants in the garden?* (Answer: weeds take sunlight, nutrients, space and water that other plants need)
- *How can weeds affect the environment?* (Answer: because they grow so fast, they can take over an area needed for crops and harm livestock and other animals by replacing the plants animals use for shelter and food, etc.)
- *How do weeds affect animals and humans?* (Answer: Some weeds can cause allergies, skin irritation, asthma, and other health problems. Some are poisonous and some weeds have spines that can hurt when you step on them)

Activities (35 minutes)

- **“Weed Collection” (15 minutes):** Students will collect weeds outside and explore why weeds are bad for the environment.
 1. *Remember, when we work in the garden I have certain expectations of your behavior. I expect you all to be respectful of self, respectful of one another, and respectful of the garden.*
 2. *You will have 5 minutes to collect weeds outside. Try and find different weeds than your friends.*
 3. Once they have collected a weed, discuss the following questions as a class:
 - a. *Think about why your weed is bad for the environment.*
 - i. *Will it grow tall and block sunlight?*
 - ii. *Does it have big roots and take water from other plants?*
 - iii. *What else can weeds that take water do to the land?*
 - iv. *Is it harmful to insects or animals?*
-  **“Wanted: Weeds” (20 minutes):** Students will draw their weed and make a wanted poster.
 1. Give 1  **Wanted: Weeds Handout** to each student.
 2. Ask students to draw their weed in the box, and below, write why their weed is wanted: for stealing water, for harming another plant, for preventing sunlight from getting the rest of the garden, etc.
 3. If the students would like, have them tape their weed to the poster.
 4. If there is time, and all the students have finished, tape the posters around the room or outside around the garden.

Evaluation Questions (5 minutes)

1. *What is one way that a weed can affect the garden?* (Answer: takes sunlight, nutrients, space and water that other plants need)
2. *What is one way that a weed can affect the environment?* (Answer: because they grow so fast, can take over an area needed for crops, many of them cause allergies for people, etc.)

3. *What is one example of a weed that can be found in our garden?*
4. *How much water should you drink every day?* (Answer: at least 6 cups of water a day)
5. *How many fruits and vegetables should you eat every day?* (Answer: at least 5 fruits and vegetables a day)
6. *Does gardening connect you to your culture and help you learn new words in your language?*
(Answer: yes)

Preparation for Future Lessons – Reminder for the Instructor

- Review the materials and preparation needed for the next lesson.

Notes
